

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 159

24p



As big as a planet, it crushed whole nations with its frightening array of weapons. The final conflict had to take place on the surface of. . .

BATTLEWORLD

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STARBLAZER

In a parallel galaxy, two races fought a bitter war. The brutal Arcon had slaughtered their way through the planetary system of Rega Neuva. The largest, most prosperous planet, Rega, had stood firm in the face of fearful casualties. But the Arcon had painstakingly constructed a gigantic, mobile fighting machine. A machine so devastatingly powerful that its power equalled that of a Class B Star — it was a . . .

BATTLEWORLD

BLASTING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH,
THE BATTLEWORLD PENETRATED
DEEP INTO REGAN AIRSPACE.

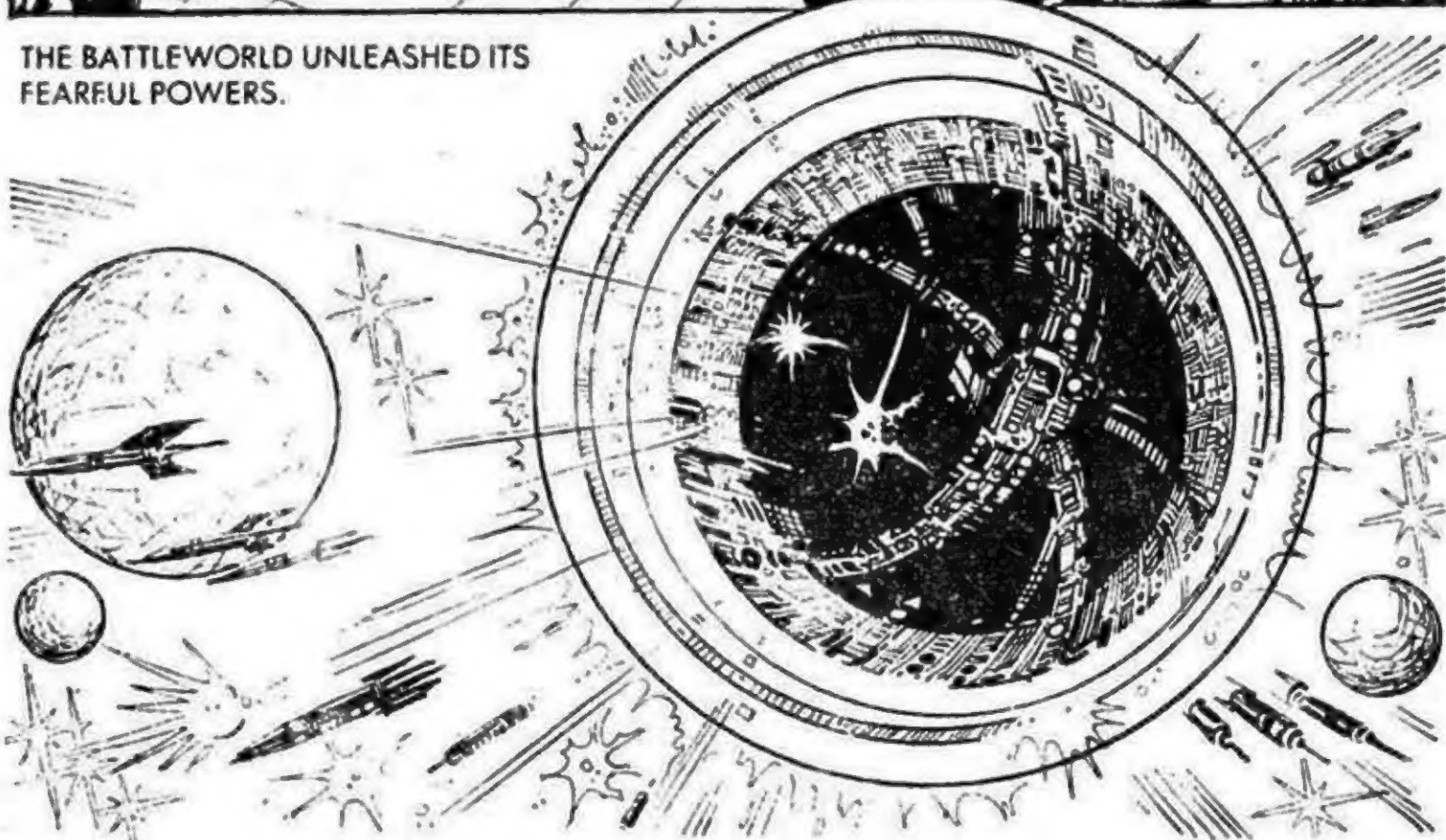


4
IN THE CONTROL ROOM

CONTROLLER ONE, WE ARE WITHIN
RANGE OF THE REGAN STRONGHOLD.

ENERGISE AND DESTROY!

THE BATTLEWORLD UNLEASHED ITS
FEARFUL POWERS.



AWESOME AMOUNTS OF ENERGY DEVASTATED
REGA, AND EDDIES OF RAW POWER SWIRLED
BACK—

IT'S SET OFF A CHAIN
REACTION! IT—ARGHH!!

CAUGHT IN THE BACKLASH OF ENERGY,
IT WAS HURLED FROM THE SYSTEM

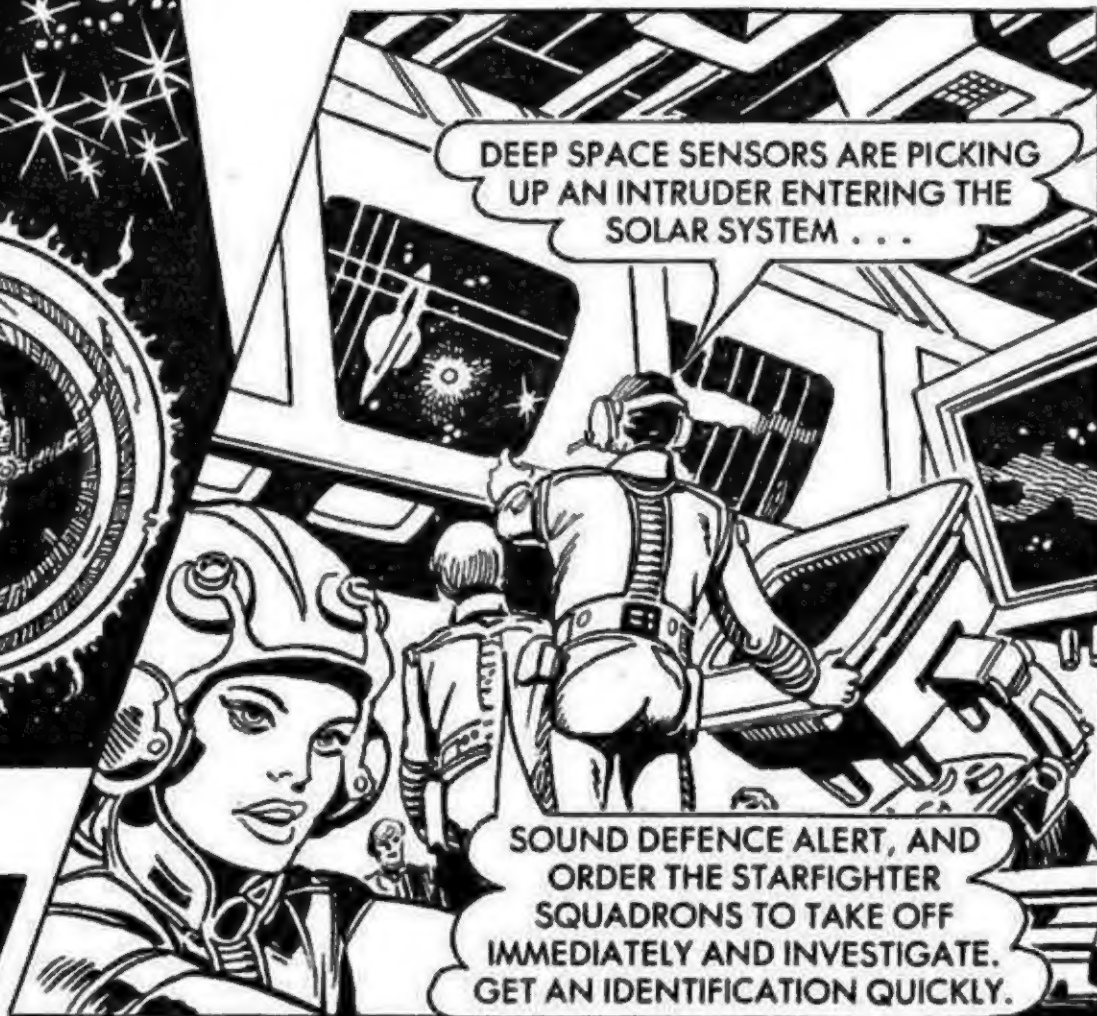


... TO DRIFT IN INTERGALACTIC SPACE, POWERLESS TO RETURN.

NEARBY, IN AN EARTH OPERATIONS ROOM ...



DEEP SPACE SENSORS ARE PICKING UP AN INTRUDER ENTERING THE SOLAR SYSTEM ...



THE INTRUDER ALERT FLASHED ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEM TO THE STARFIGHTER BASE ON ONE OF THE MOONS OF SATURN.

FLIGHT ONE LAUNCHED, CONTROL.

CO-ORDS—
0382 67501.



IN THE LEADING STARFIGHTER, HAL STORM SET COURSE FOR THE ALIEN INTRUDER.

CLOSING ON INTERCEPT
CO-ORDINATES WITH THE INTRUDER.

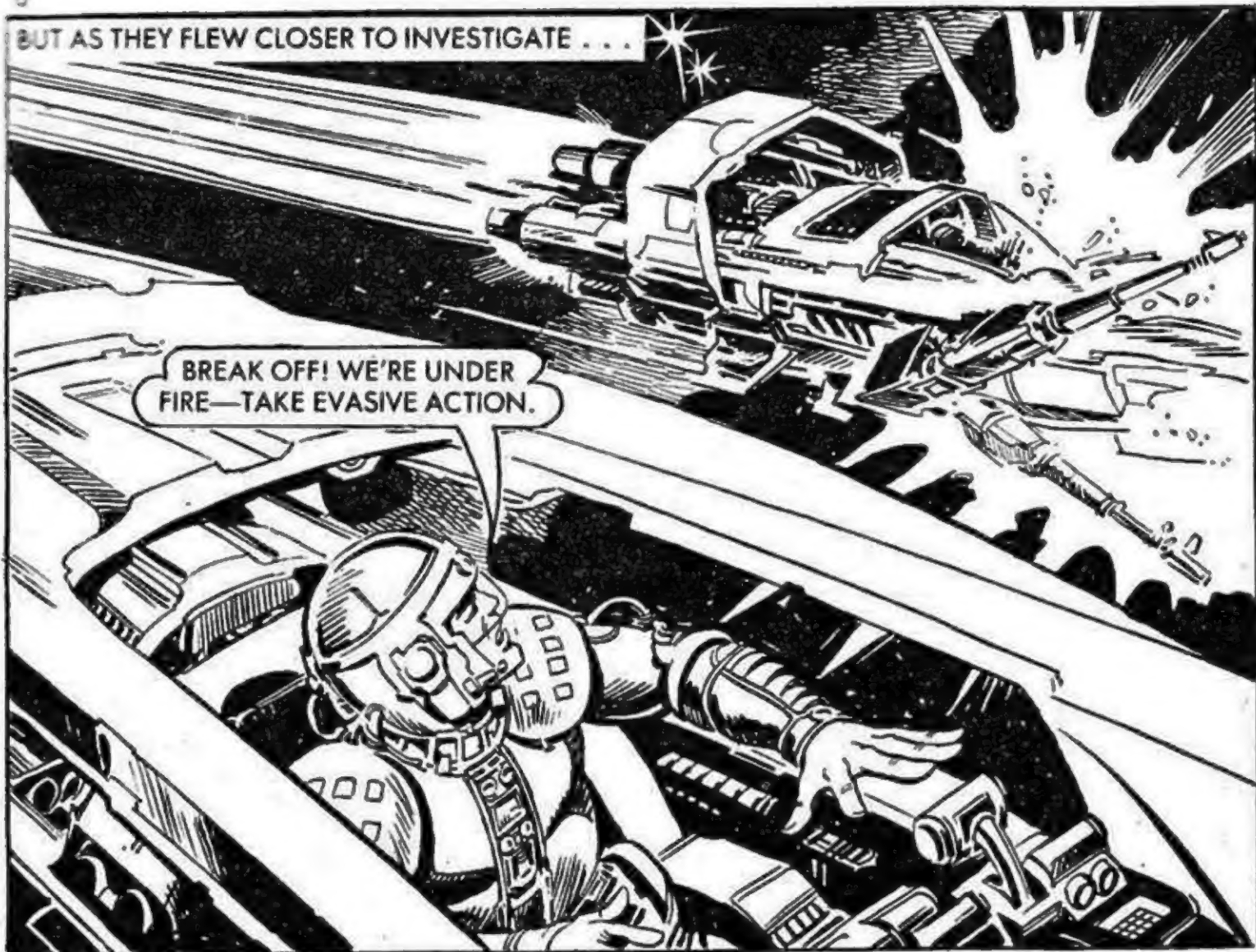
WITHIN MINUTES THEY HAD SIGHTED THE INTERLOPER . . .

WE HAVE VISUAL CONTACT . . . IT'S
INCREDIBLE, IT'S AN ALIEN SHIP OF NO
KNOWN CONFIGURATION—BUT IT MUST
BE A THOUSAND MILES IN DIAMETER!



BUT AS THEY FLEW CLOSER TO INVESTIGATE . . .

BREAK OFF! WE'RE UNDER
FIRE—TAKE EVASIVE ACTION.



I'VE BEEN HIT! NO APPARENT DAMAGE,
BUT THE CONTROLS WON'T RESPOND . . .



HAL FOUND HIMSELF CAUGHT IN A TRACTOR BEAM.



MAYDAY! THIS IS STORM TO FLIGHT TWO—MY SHIP HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ALIEN . . . I'M BEING PULLED DOWN TO THE SURFACE OF THE ALIEN SHIP.



BUT EVEN AS HAL WAS PULLED IN, THE ENERGY THAT HAD THRUST THE BATTLEWORLD INTO THE PARALLEL EARTH SYSTEM, BEGAN TO PULL IT BACK.

A SPACE WARP!

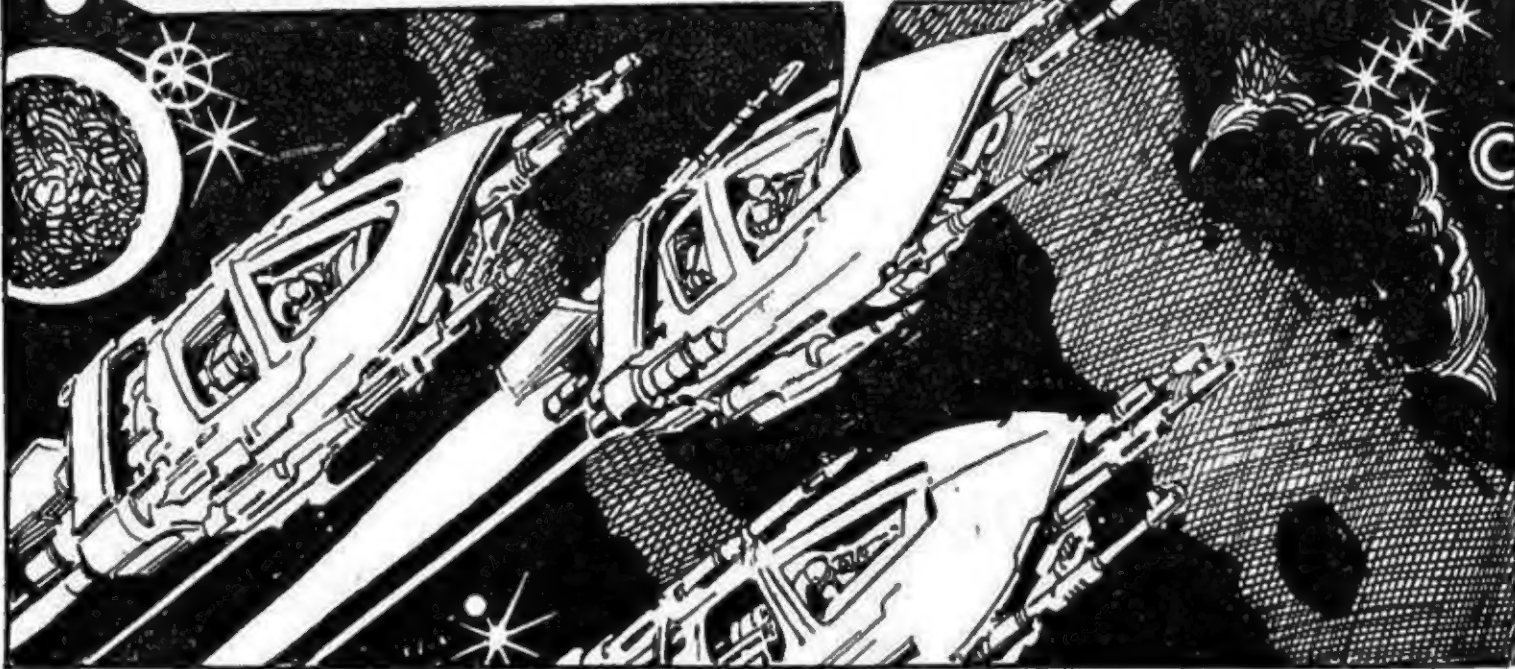


I'M BEING PULLED STRAIGHT INTO IT!

ALIEN INVADER AND EARTH CAPTIVE VANISHED INTO THE MAELSTROM . .

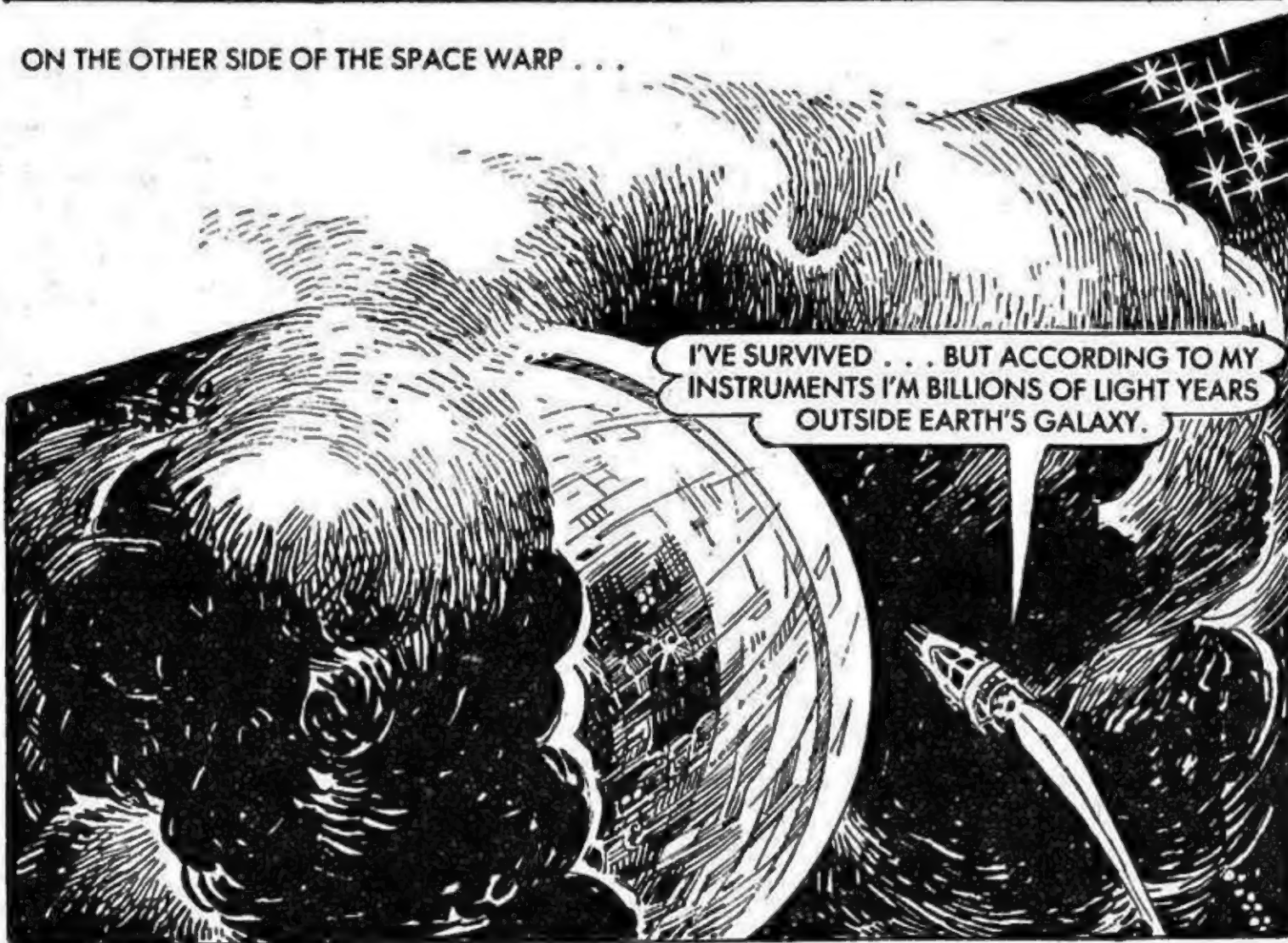
THE RESCUE FLIGHT ARRIVED TOO LATE.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM . . . HAL'S SIMPLY DISAPPEARED!



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SPACE WARP . . .

I'VE SURVIVED . . . BUT ACCORDING TO MY
INSTRUMENTS I'M BILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS
OUTSIDE EARTH'S GALAXY.



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AS THE BATTLE WORLD AND ITS CAPTIVE
FELL AWAY FROM THE SPACE WARP . . .



I'M STILL BEING PULLED DOWN TO
THE SURFACE. LOOKS LIKE SOME
KIND OF LANDING PAD BELOW.

THE STARFIGHTER TOUCHED DOWN IN A STRANGE, ARTIFICIAL LANDSCAPE.



THE SHIP'S STILL BEING HELD—NO
CHANCE OF LIFTING OFF AGAIN. I MAY
AS WELL GET OUT AND EXPLORE.

THE INTRUDER'S HULL SEEMS TO HAVE ITS
OWN GRAVITY FIELD. IT'S LIKE BEING ON
THE SURFACE OF A PLANET.



SUDDENLY—

WHAT THE . . . ?



WHAT ARE THEY?



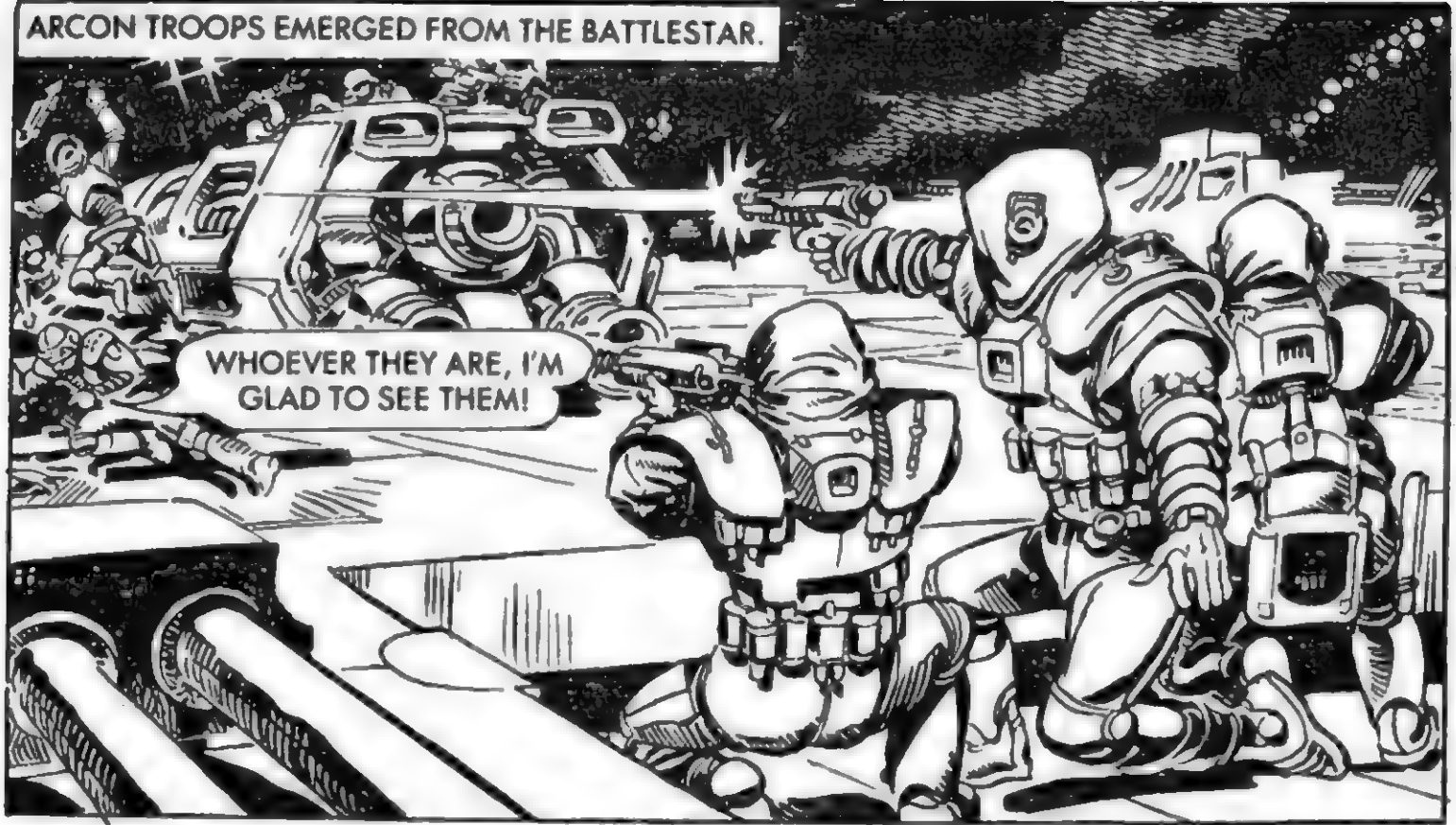
ORDERS WERE SHOUTED IN A STRANGE LANGUAGE—



BUT BEFORE THE ALIENS COULD CLOSE IN FOR
THE KILL—



ARCON TROOPS EMERGED FROM THE BATTLESTAR.

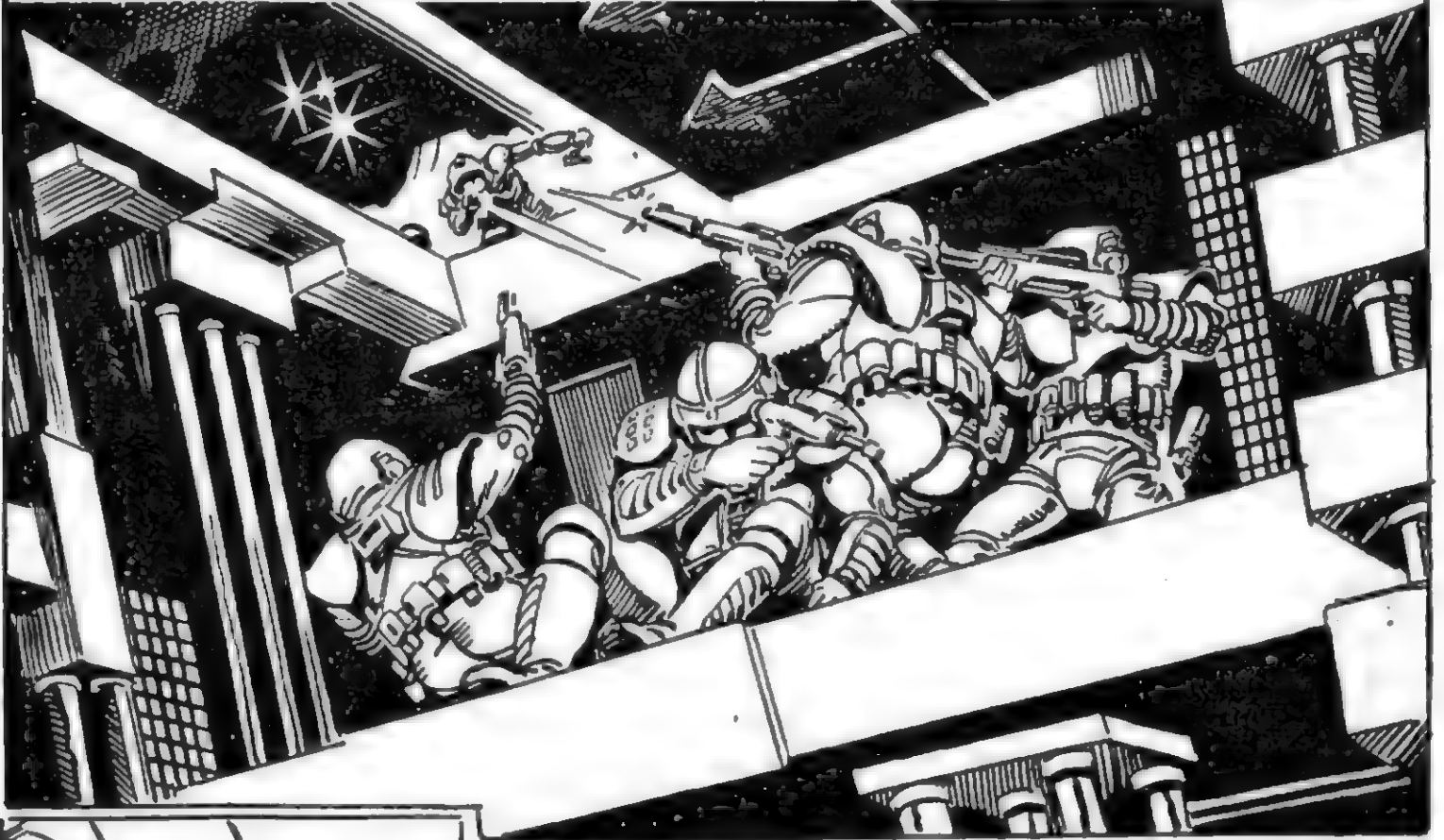


WE HAVE THE EARTHLING—
LOWER THE PLATFORM.



AS THE ALIENS FLED, THE LANDING
PAD BEGAN TO DESCEND BENEATH THE BATTLEWORLD'S SURFACE.

DOORS CLOSED ABOVE THEM AND AS THE PAD DESCENDED THE AIR PRESSURE BEGAN TO RISE.



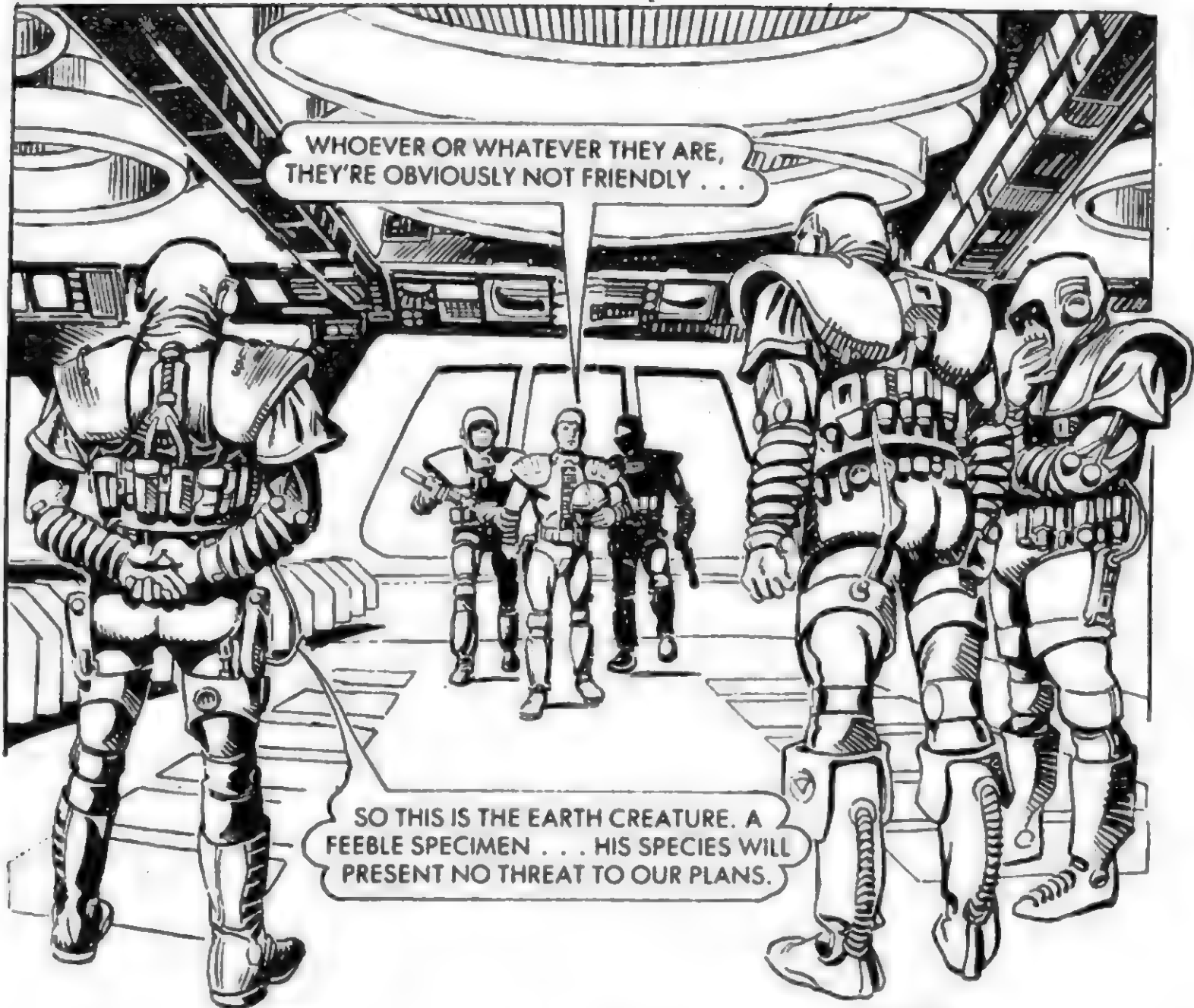
**WE HAVE THE EARTH
CREATURE AND HIS
CRAFT, CONTROLLERS.**

**HAVE HIM BROUGHT
HERE. MEANWHILE,
CONTINUE TRACKING
THE SPACE WARP.**

THE LANDING PAD HAD DESCENDED INTO A SPACE HANGAR.

YOU WILL REMOVE YOUR HELMET AND
DROP YOUR WEAPON, EARTHMAN.

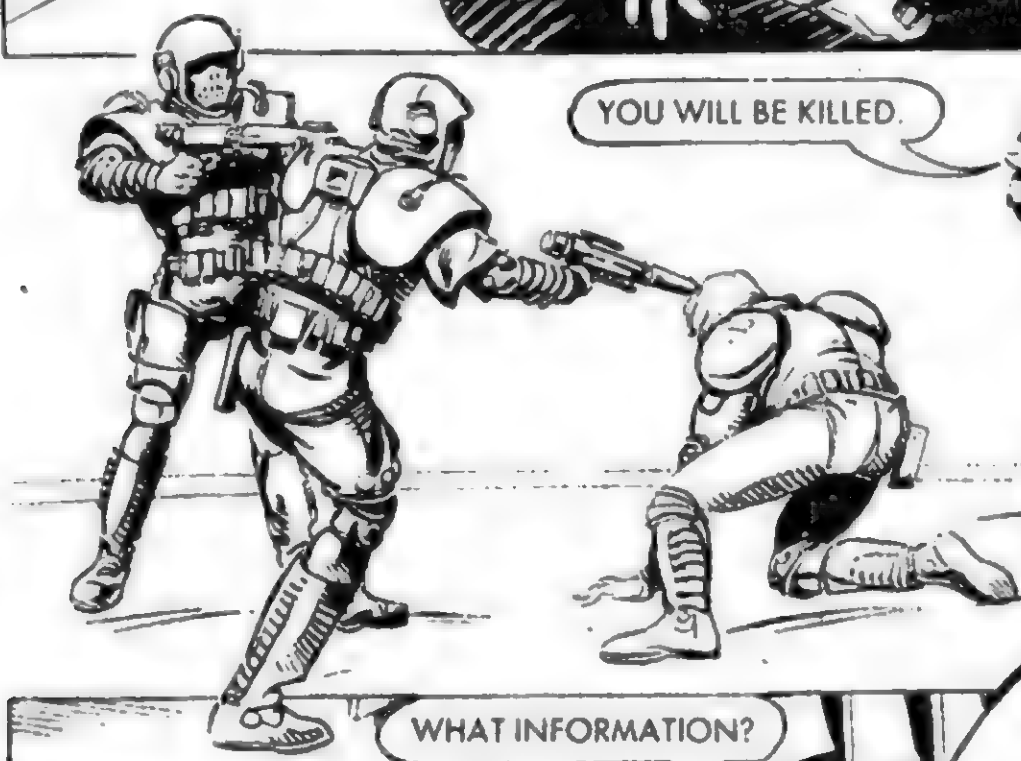




BUT BEFORE HE'D TAKEN HALF A PACE—

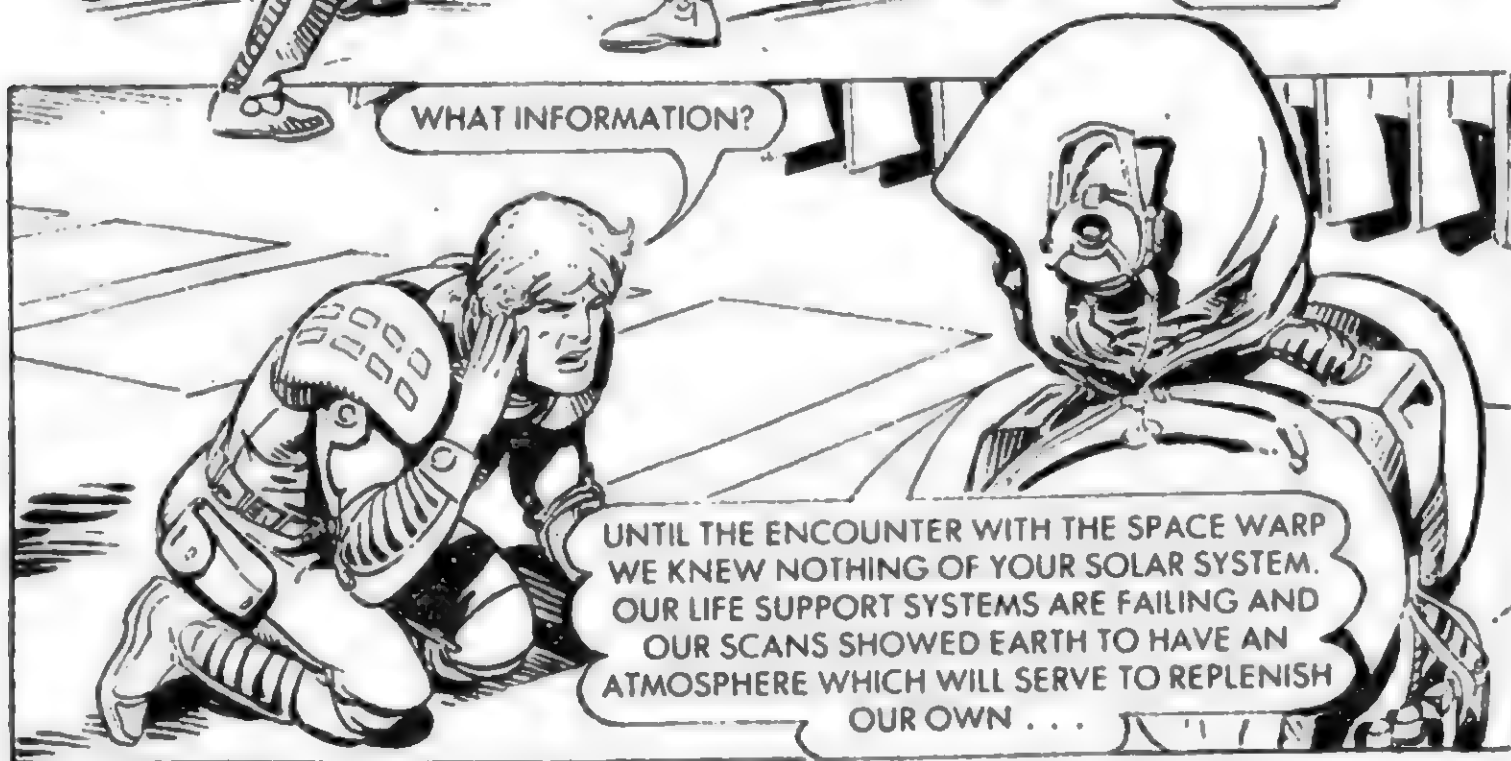


YOU WILL BE KILLED.



THE INFORMATION WE REQUIRE CAN BE QUITE EASILY EXTRACTED FROM YOUR BRAIN CELLS AFTER DEATH.

WHAT INFORMATION?



UNTIL THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE SPACE WARP WE KNEW NOTHING OF YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM. OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS ARE FAILING AND OUR SCANS SHOWED EARTH TO HAVE AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH WILL SERVE TO REPLENISH OUR OWN . . .

YOUR PUNY PLANET WILL HAVE
ITS PART TO PLAY IN THE
DESTINY OF THE ARCON EMPIRE!



YOU'LL GET NO
HELP FROM ME—



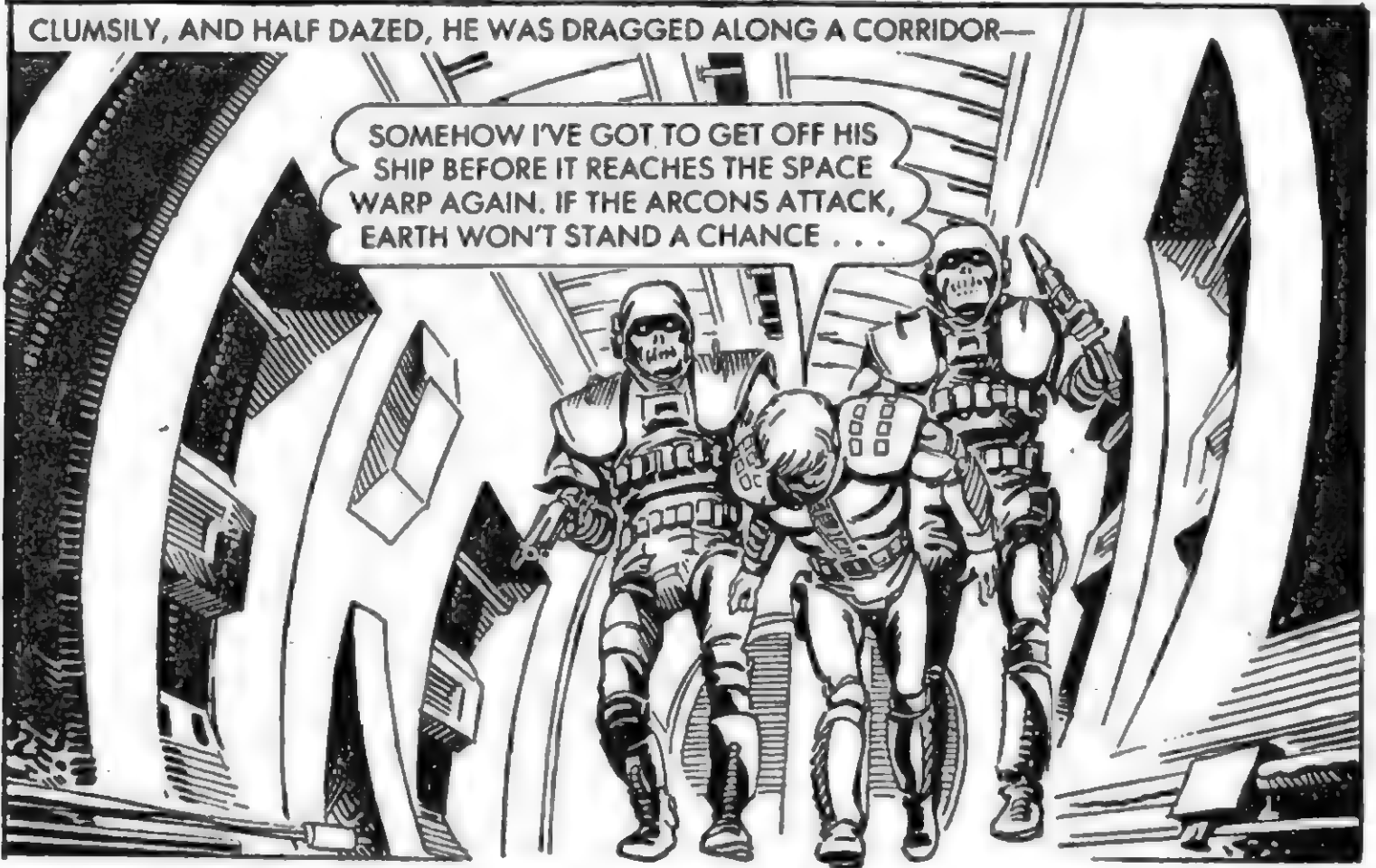
WE WILL! TAKE HIM AWAY AND PUT
HIM WITH THE PRISONERS FROM
REGA.

ONCE AGAIN HAL WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS—



CLUMSILY, AND HALF DAZED, HE WAS DRAGGED ALONG A CORRIDOR—

SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO GET OFF HIS SHIP BEFORE IT REACHES THE SPACE WARP AGAIN. IF THE ARCONS ATTACK, EARTH WON'T STAND A CHANCE . . .



SUMMONING UP THE FULL POWER OF HIS WEAKENED BODY HE LAUNCHED HIMSELF AT A GUARD—





HAL WAS TAKEN TO AN AIRLOCK.

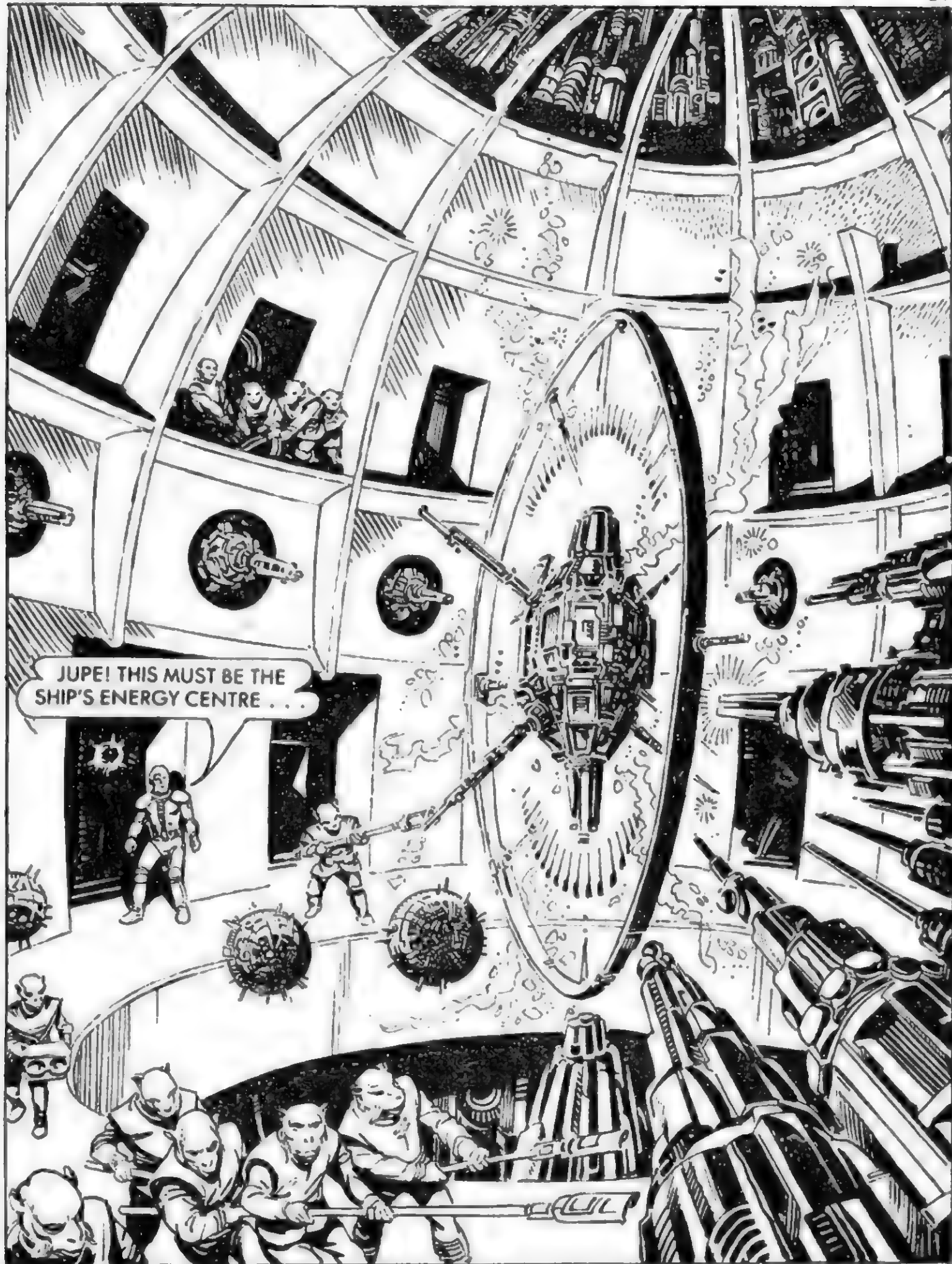


SENDING YOU TO JOIN
THE OTHER SLAVES!

AS THE DOOR OPENED, HAL WAS
CONFRONTED BY A GUARD ROBOT.

YOU WILL MOVE FORWARD OUT
OF THE AIRLOCK, EARTHLING.









IF YOU THINK I'M BEING ORDERED
ABOUT BY . . . AAAAH . . .

YOU WILL OBEY OR
BE DESTROYED!



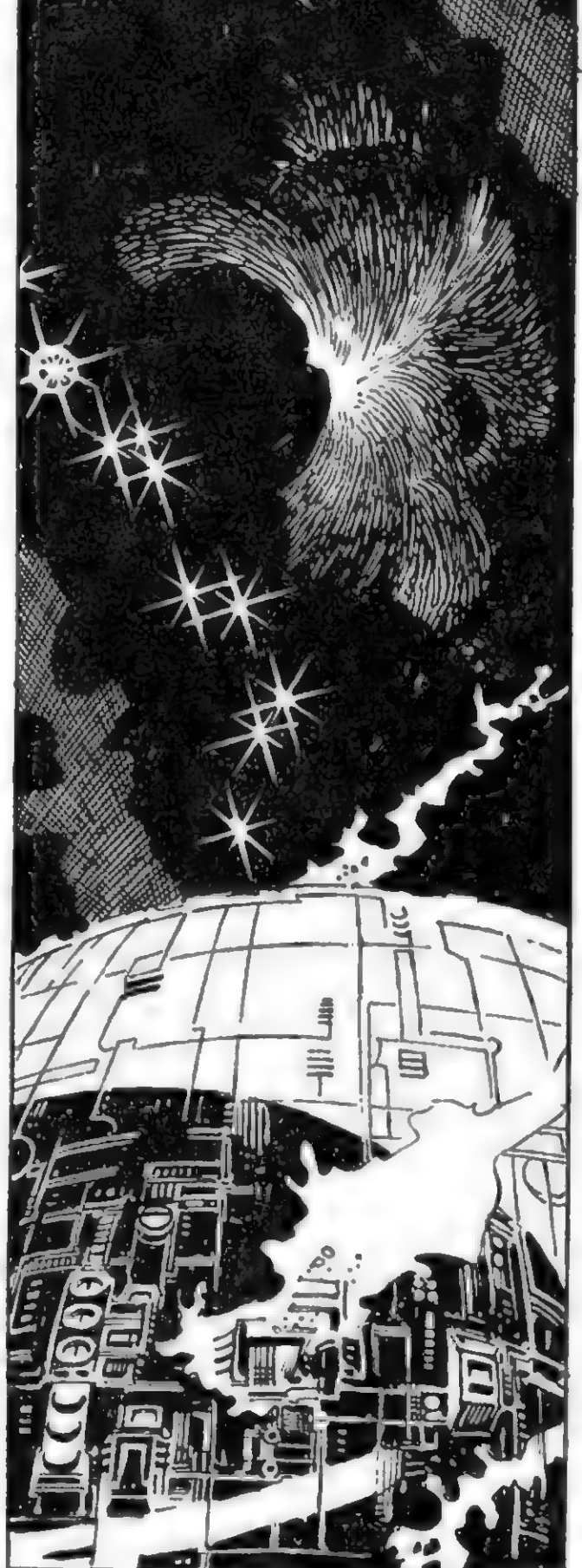
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE,
EARTHMAN! THE SENTINEL ONLY
PUNISHED YOU—IT COULD HAVE
BEEN A DEATH-BOLT.

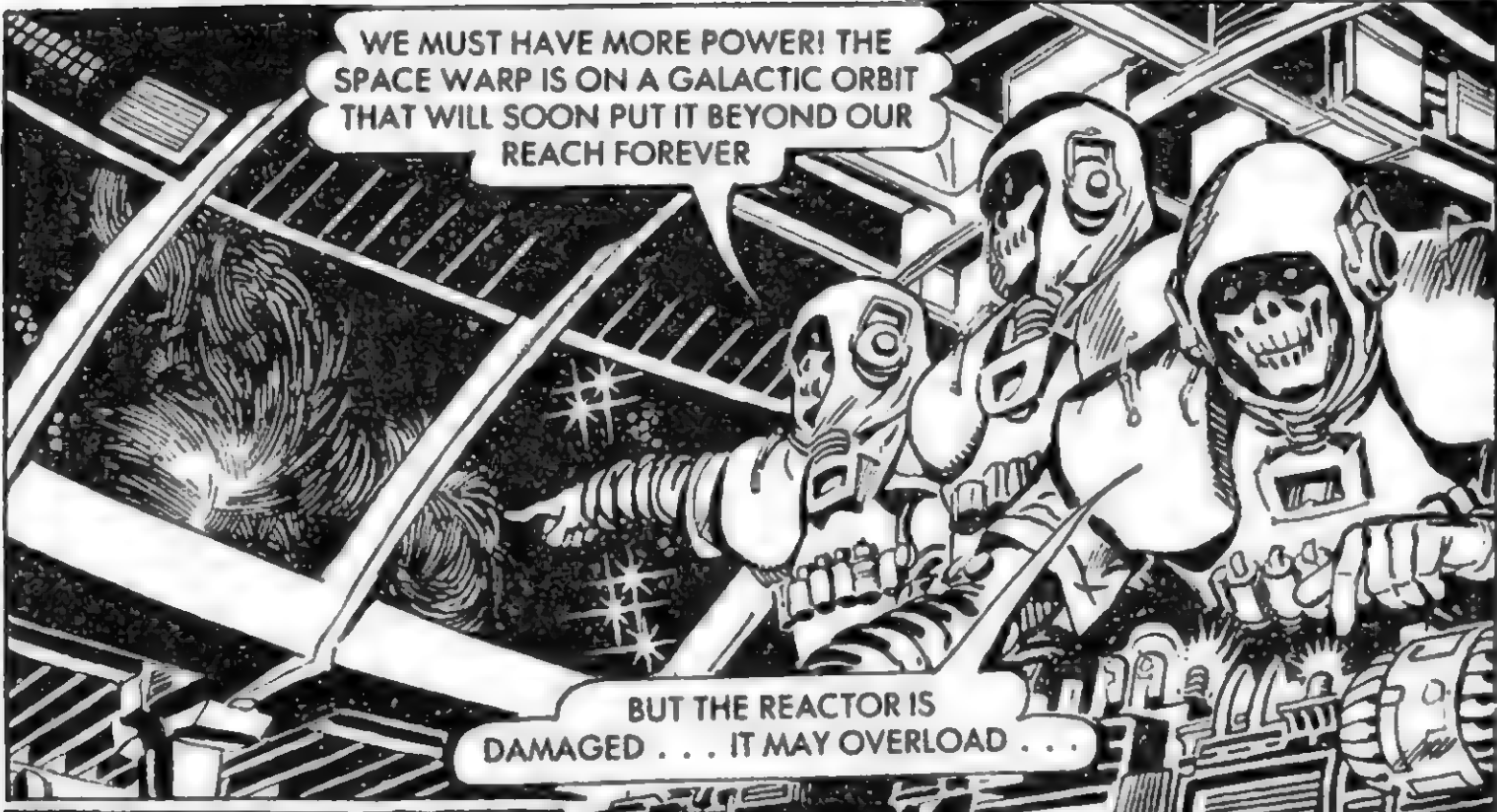
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN . . .

TO HAL'S SURPRISE, HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE ALIEN SAID. HIS TRANSLATOR PACK HAD FINALLY WORKED OUT THE LANGUAGE.



AS HAL WORKED IN THE ENERGY REACTOR, THE DAMAGED ARCON STARSHIP BEGAN TO MOVE THROUGH SPACE IN PURSUIT OF THE SPACE WARP.





WE MUST HAVE MORE POWER! THE SPACE WARP IS ON A GALACTIC ORBIT THAT WILL SOON PUT IT BEYOND OUR REACH FOREVER

BUT THE REACTOR IS DAMAGED . . . IT MAY OVERLOAD . . .




WE MUST RECAPTURE THE SPACE WARP!

IN THE REACTOR ROOM, ONE OF THE SPHERES SUDDENLY CRASHED . . .



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO IT?

ITS CONTROL CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY RADIATION. IT WILL BE REPAIRED. IT IS CONSTANTLY HAPPENING . . . BUT THE OTHERS WATCH US TOO CLOSELY FOR US TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.



THE WHOLE AREA IS BATHED IN RADIATION FROM THE DAMAGED REACTOR. THE ARCONS CANNOT SURVIVE IN HERE, SO THEY USE US TO REPAIR IT. FORTUNATELY OUR METABOLISMS ARE IMMUNE TO THIS FORM OF RADIATION.

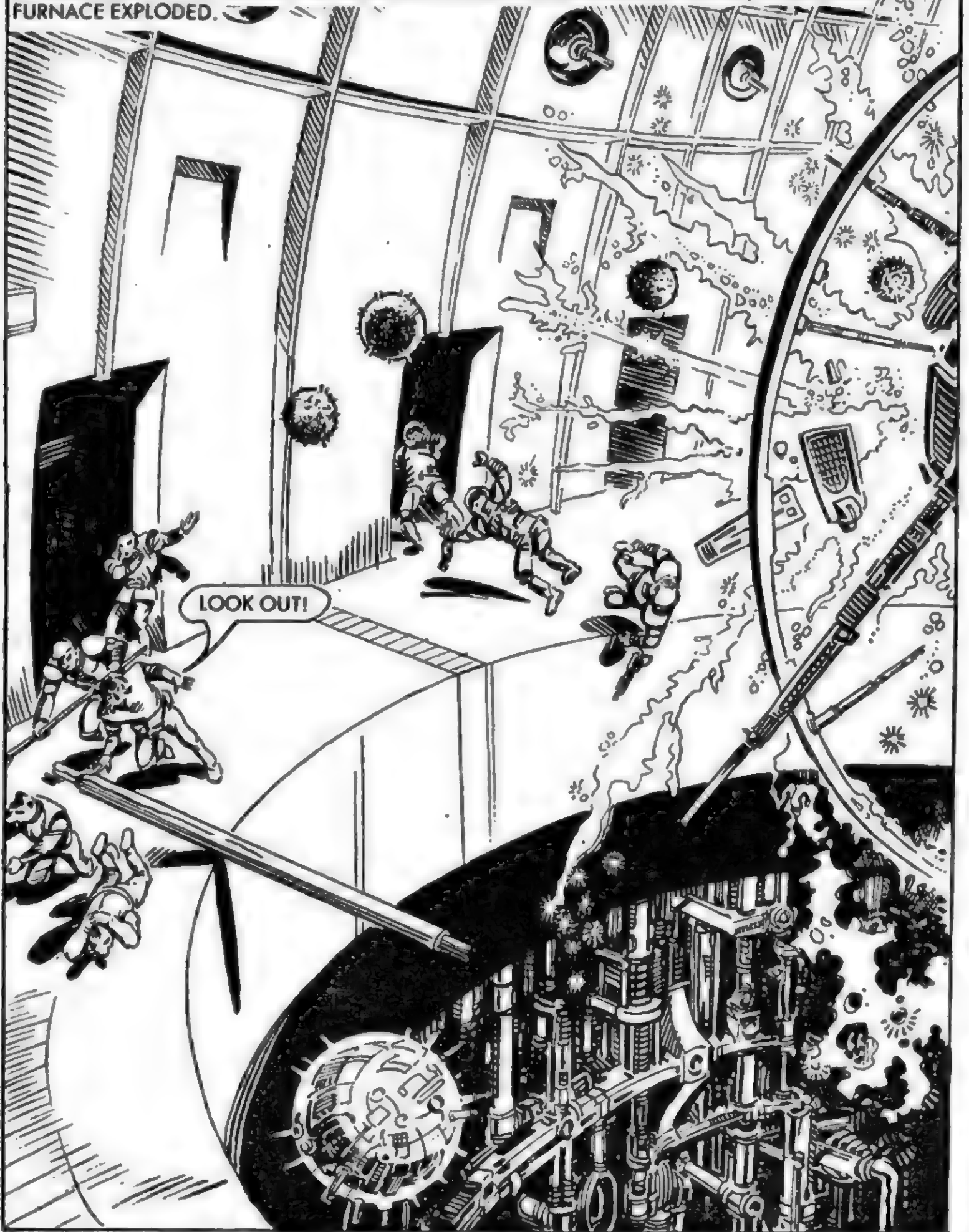
YOURS MAY BE . . . BUT IF I STAY IN HERE TOO LONG IT WILL BE FATAL!



BUT YOU CANNOT ESCAPE, THE SENTINELS WATCH US TOO CLOSELY.

THE REACTOR . . . IT'S GOING OUT OF CONTROL.

OVERLOADED BY THE BATTLE WORLD'S RELENTLESS CHASE THROUGH SPACE, A REACTOR FURNACE EXPLODED.



COME ON! THIS IS OUR
CHANCE TO ESCAPE!



THIS WAY . . .

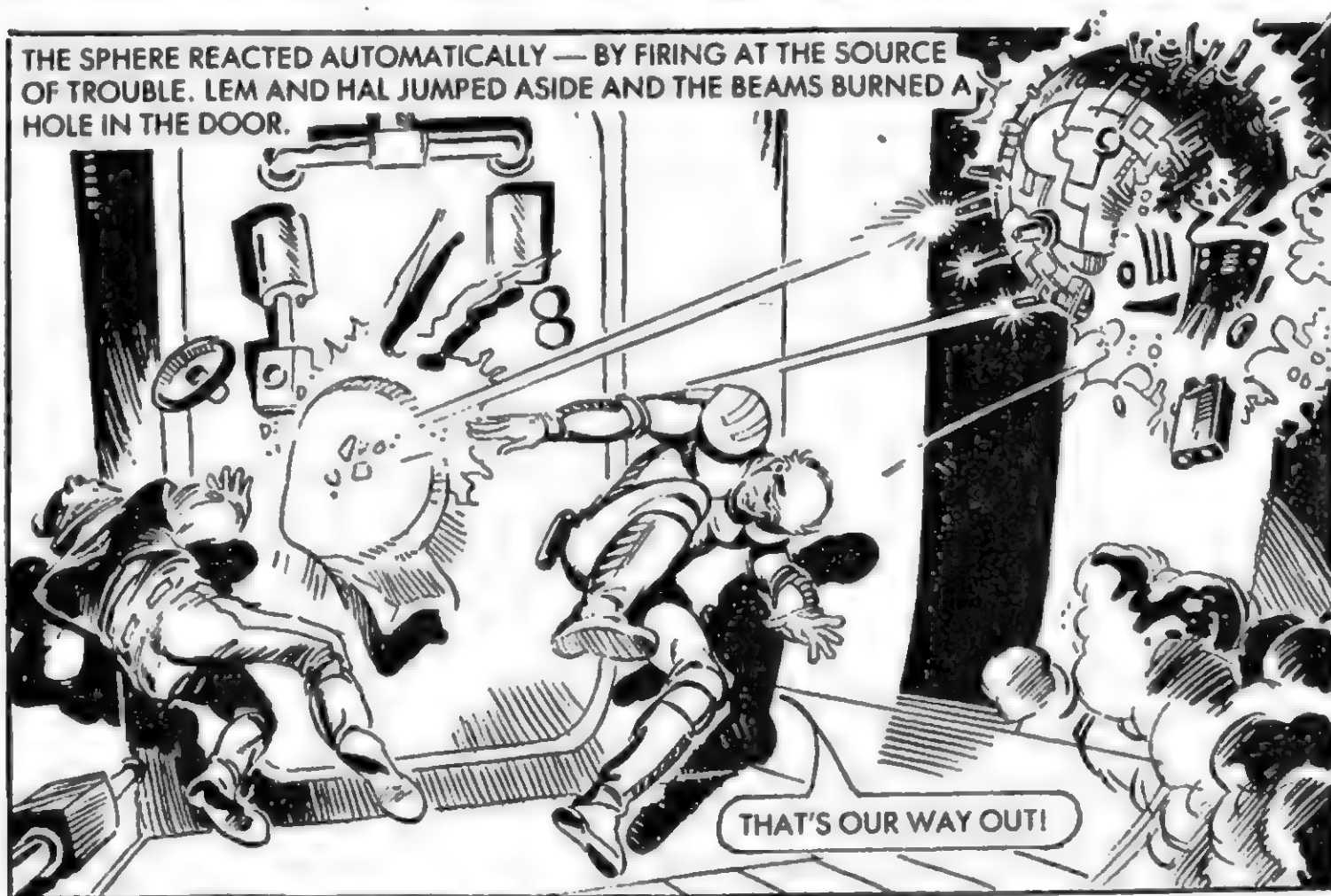


LET'S SEE IF ONE OF THOSE
GLOBES WILL OPEN IT FOR US . . .



HE HURLED DEBRIS AT THE GLOBE—

THE SPHERE REACTED AUTOMATICALLY — BY FIRING AT THE SOURCE
OF TROUBLE. LEM AND HAL JUMPED ASIDE AND THE BEAMS BURNED A
HOLE IN THE DOOR.



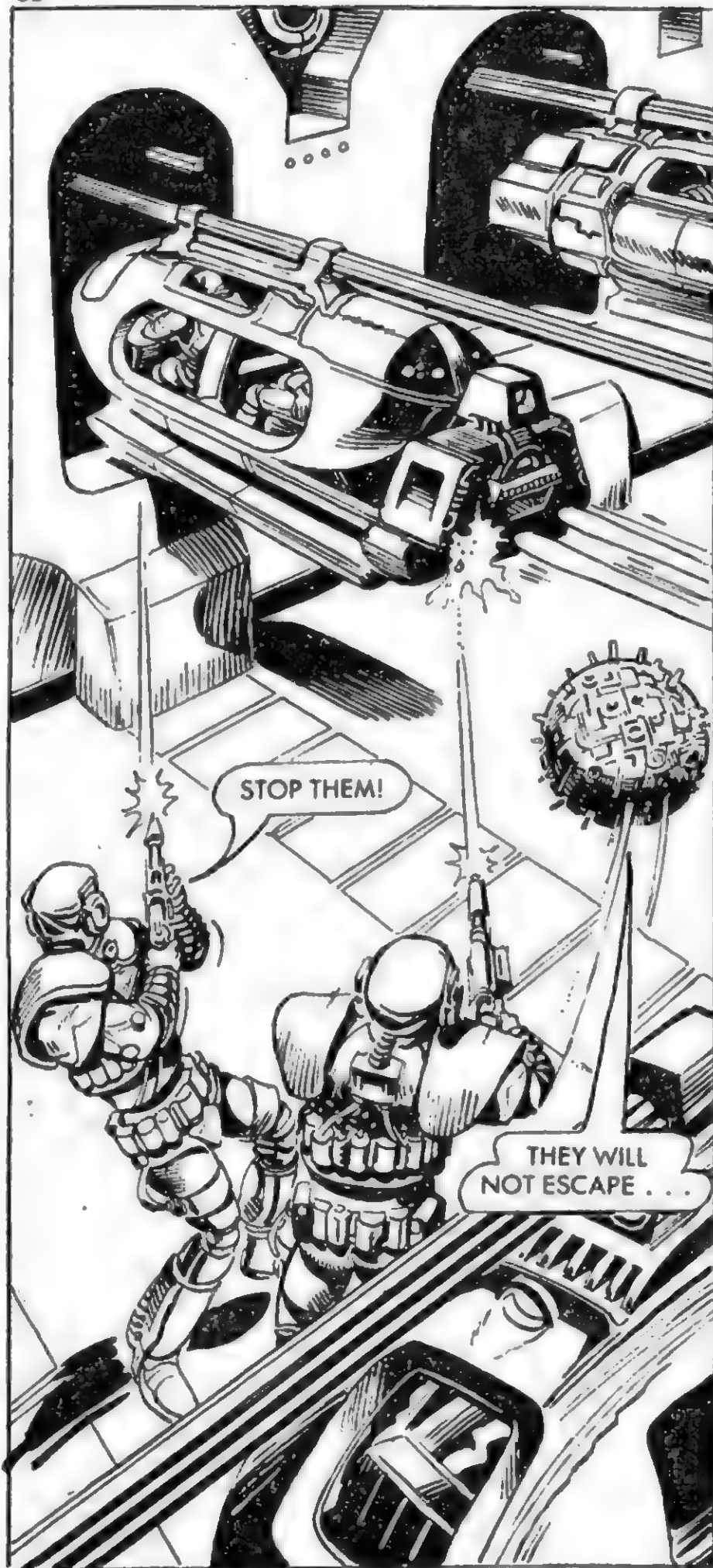
THAT'S OUR WAY OUT!



THE TWO FLED QUICKLY—



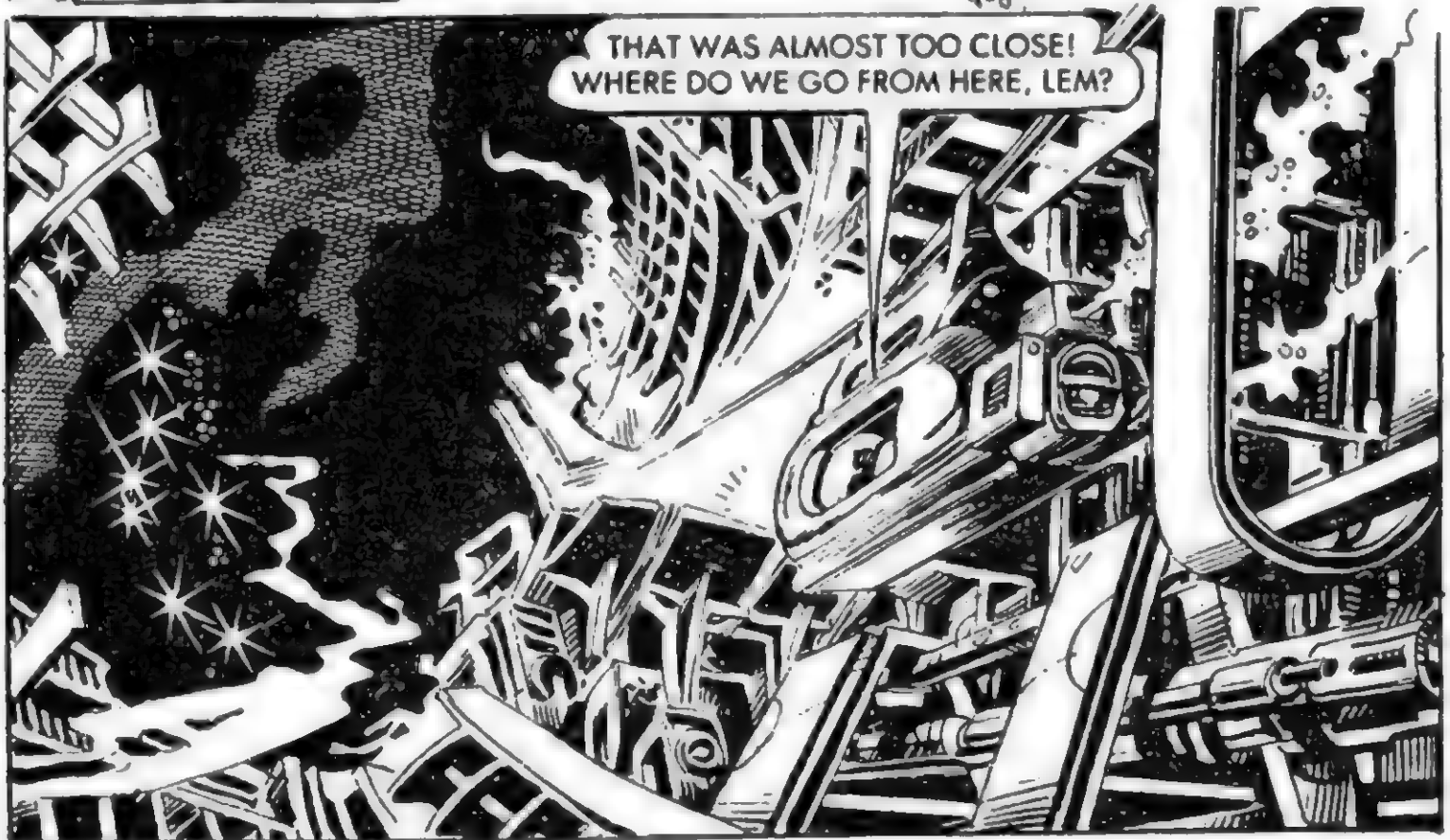




INSIDE THE SHUTTLE . . .

THAT'S WRONG?

THE CONTROLS WON'T
OPERATE. ONE OF THE
GUARDS MUST HAVE
BLASTED A CONTROL
LINE . . . I CAN'T STOP THE
SHUTTLE.



HAL TOLD HIS STORY—





HAL HURRIEDLY RESEALED THE HATCH.



AS THE PRESSURE BUILT UP . . .

OUR SPACE SUITS ARE NOT MADE TO
TAKE EXTERNAL PRESSURE . . . YOU'LL
KILL US BOTH.

JUST A LITTLE MORE . . .
THIS MUST WORK.

THE SHUTTLE HATCH GROANED AND EXPLODED OUTWARDS!

IT'S SMASHED INTO THE SENTINEL.
LET'S MOVE, BEFORE IT RECOVERS.

HAL AND LEM BEGAN TO DESCEND THE CRATER WALL.





DO NOT MOVE!



BROTHER, WE WELCOME YOUR ESCAPE . . . BUT WHO IS THIS WITH YOU? HE IS NOT ARCON?

HE IS AN EARTHMAN . . . AND A FRIEND. BUT WE CANNOT EXPLAIN NOW—THE ARCONS MAY BE PURSUING US.



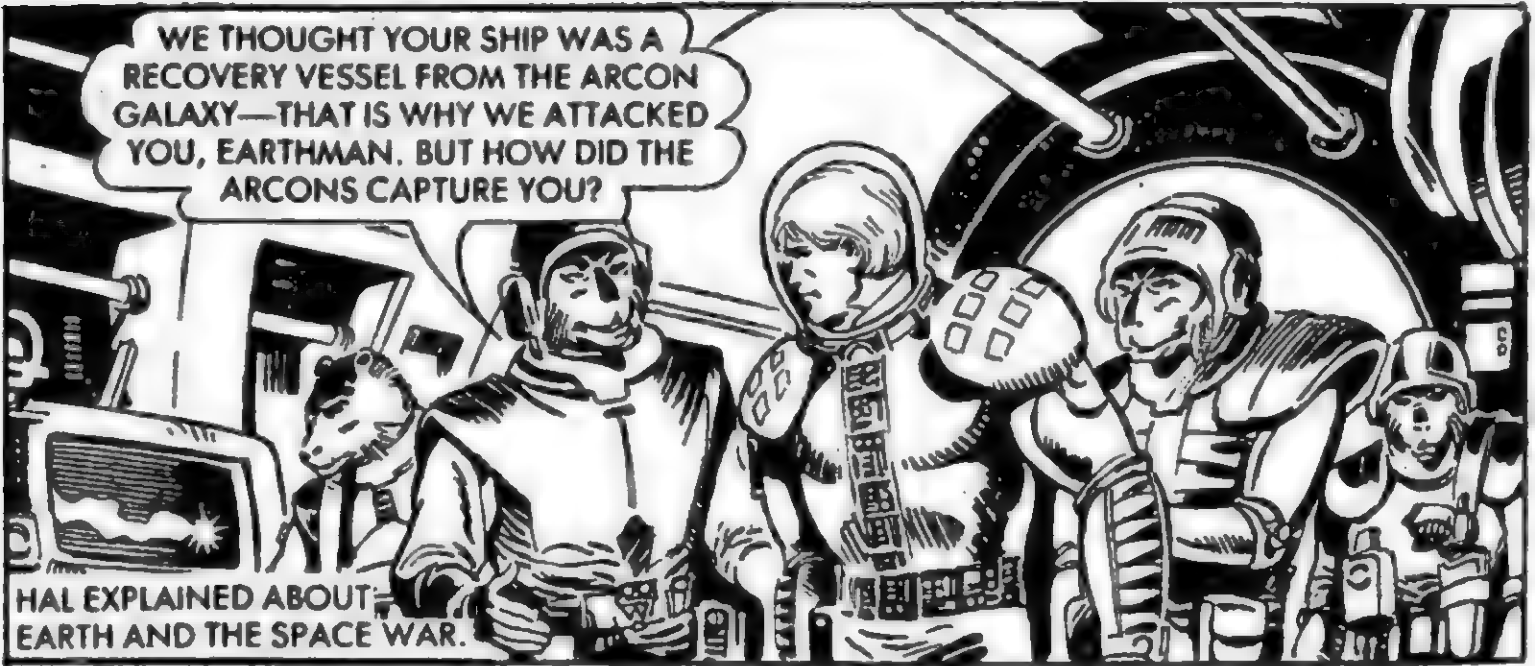
THE REGA BEGAN LEADING THE WAY THROUGH A MAZE OF TWISTED METAL.

THIS IS OUR HEADQUARTERS . . . A FUEL
TANK WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
REPAIR AND REPRESSURISE. THE ARCONS
WILL NOT FIND US HERE.




I HAVE THE PRISONERS UNDER
OBSERVATION. THEY HAVE CONTACTED
THE REGA REBELS.





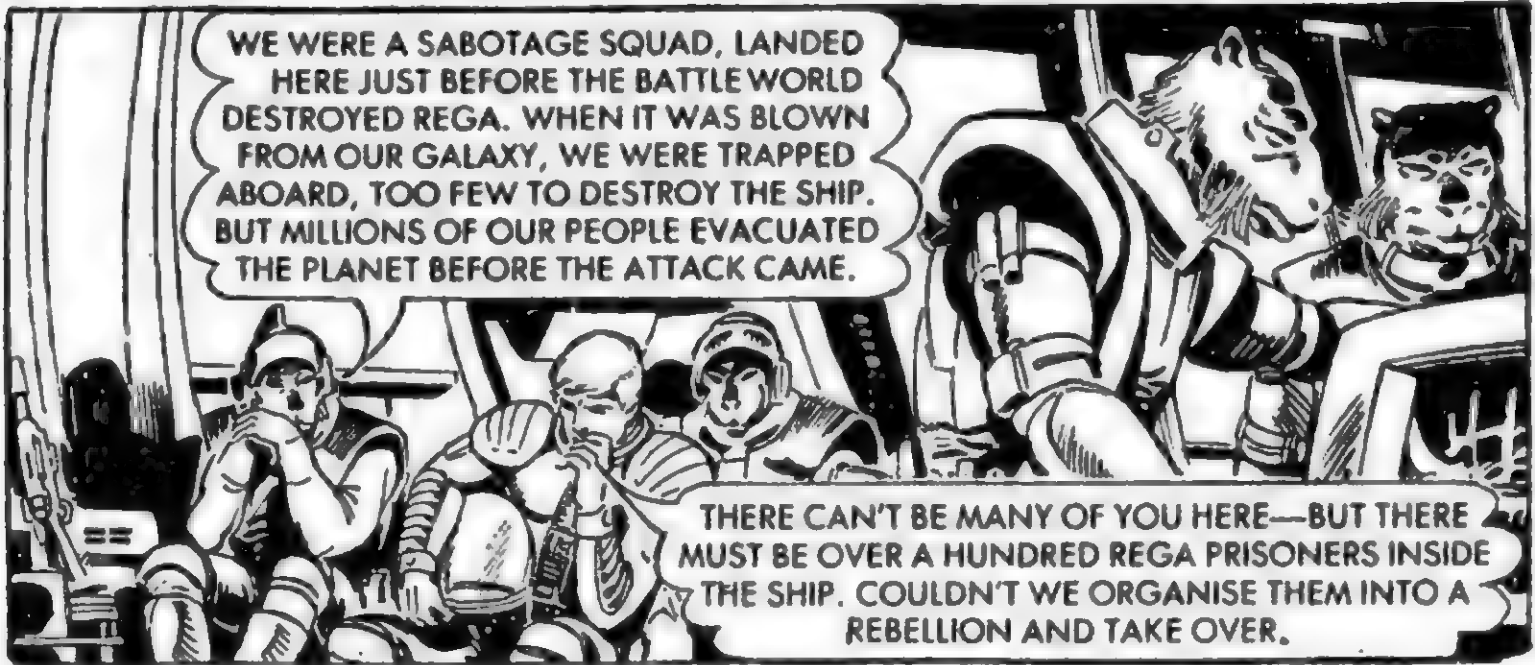
WE THOUGHT YOUR SHIP WAS A RECOVERY VESSEL FROM THE ARCON GALAXY—THAT IS WHY WE ATTACKED YOU, EARTHMAN. BUT HOW DID THE ARCONS CAPTURE YOU?

HAL EXPLAINED ABOUT EARTH AND THE SPACE WAR.



THEY WILL DRAIN YOUR PLANET OF ITS ATMOSPHERE TO REPLENISH THEIR OWN WANING SUPPLY, THEN THEY WILL RETURN TO THEIR OWN GALAXY, PLUNDERING AND DESTROYING AS THEY GO. THAT IS WHY THEY MUST BE STOPPED, EVEN IF IT MEANS OUR OWN DEATHS.

BUT HOW DID YOU GET HERE?



WE WERE A SABOTAGE SQUAD, LANDED HERE JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE WORLD DESTROYED REGA. WHEN IT WAS BLOWN FROM OUR GALAXY, WE WERE TRAPPED ABOARD, TOO FEW TO DESTROY THE SHIP. BUT MILLIONS OF OUR PEOPLE EVACUATED THE PLANET BEFORE THE ATTACK CAME.

THERE CAN'T BE MANY OF YOU HERE—BUT THERE MUST BE OVER A HUNDRED REGA PRISONERS INSIDE THE SHIP. COULDN'T WE ORGANISE THEM INTO A REBELLION AND TAKE OVER.

MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE—

THERE IS THE REBEL HEADQUARTERS
... PREPARE TO ATTACK.




CAPTAIN! OUR SCOUTS ARE BEING
ATTACKED—THE ARCONS HAVE FOUND US!






NONE OF THE
REBELS MUST ESCAPE!



THEY'RE GETTING PAST
YOUR DEFENCES. IS THERE
AN ESCAPE ROUTE OUT OF
HERE?

OF COURSE, BUT THEY
WOULD SIMPLY FOLLOW.

THE REGA BEGAN TO GO OUT THROUGH THE ESCAPE HATCH . . .



IF YOUR PEOPLE ESCAPE, I WILL REMAIN
HERE TO HOLD THE ARCONS OFF WITH
YOUR REMOTE-CONTROLLED WEAPONS.
WHEN I THINK YOU'RE CLEAR, I'LL LET THEM
CAPTURE ME. WITH LUCK, THEY'LL PUT ME
BACK WITH THE PRISONERS.



GOOD LUCK, EARTHMAN. I
SALUTE YOUR BRAVERY . . .

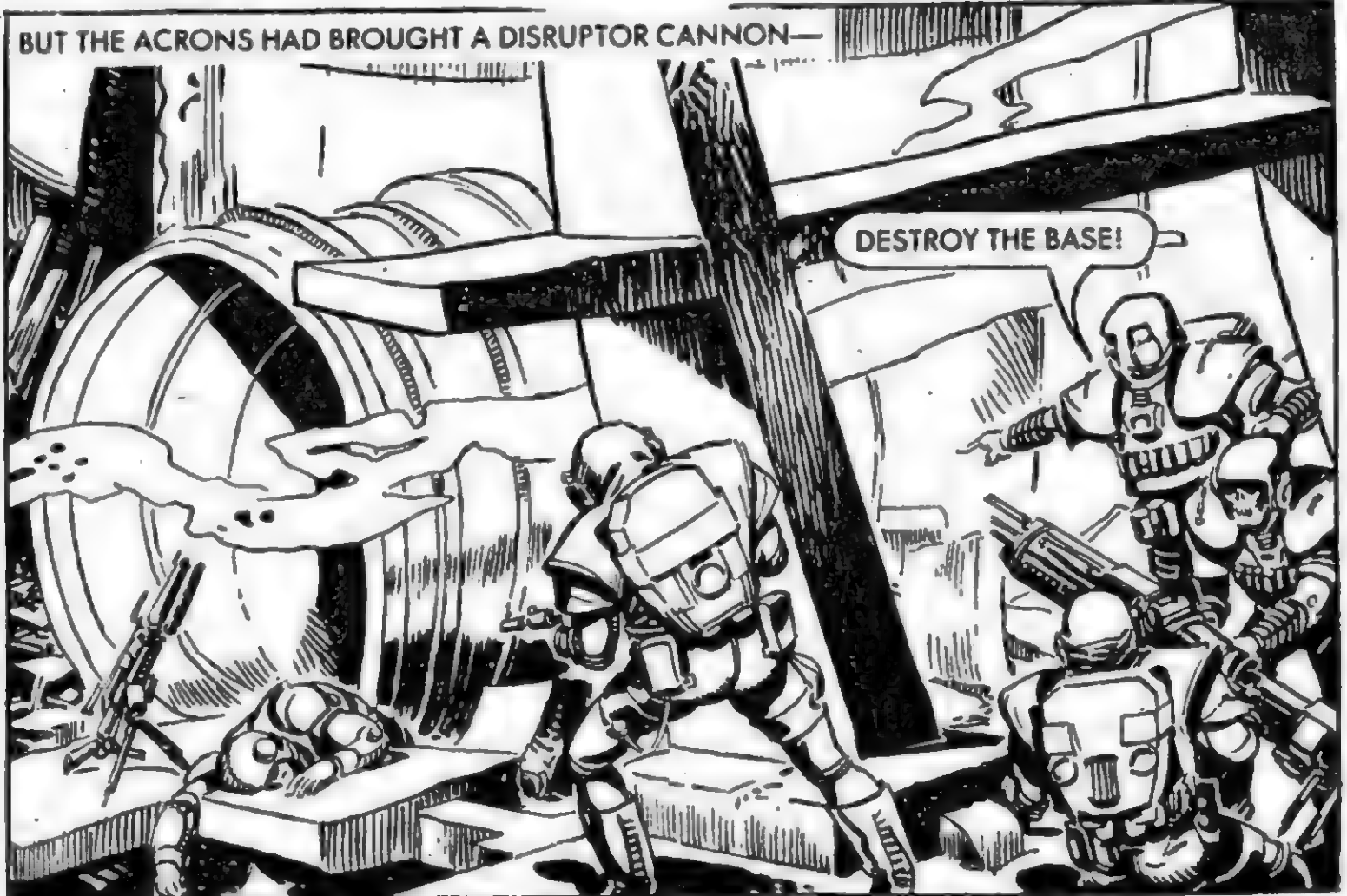
SOON HAL WAS ALONE—

HERE COME THE ARCONS AGAIN.
NOW TO MAKE THIS LOOK GOOD . . .



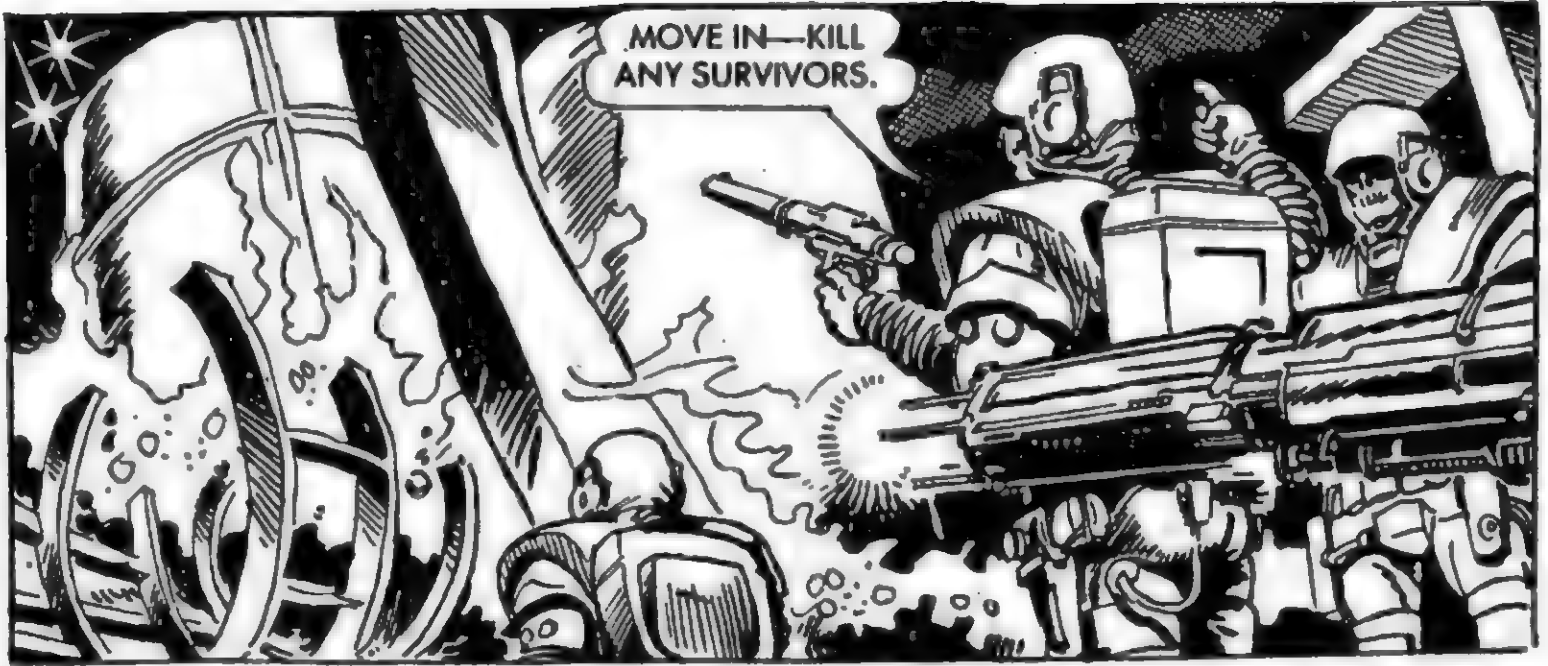
BUT THE ACRONS HAD BROUGHT A DISRUPTOR CANNON—

DESTROY THE BASE!

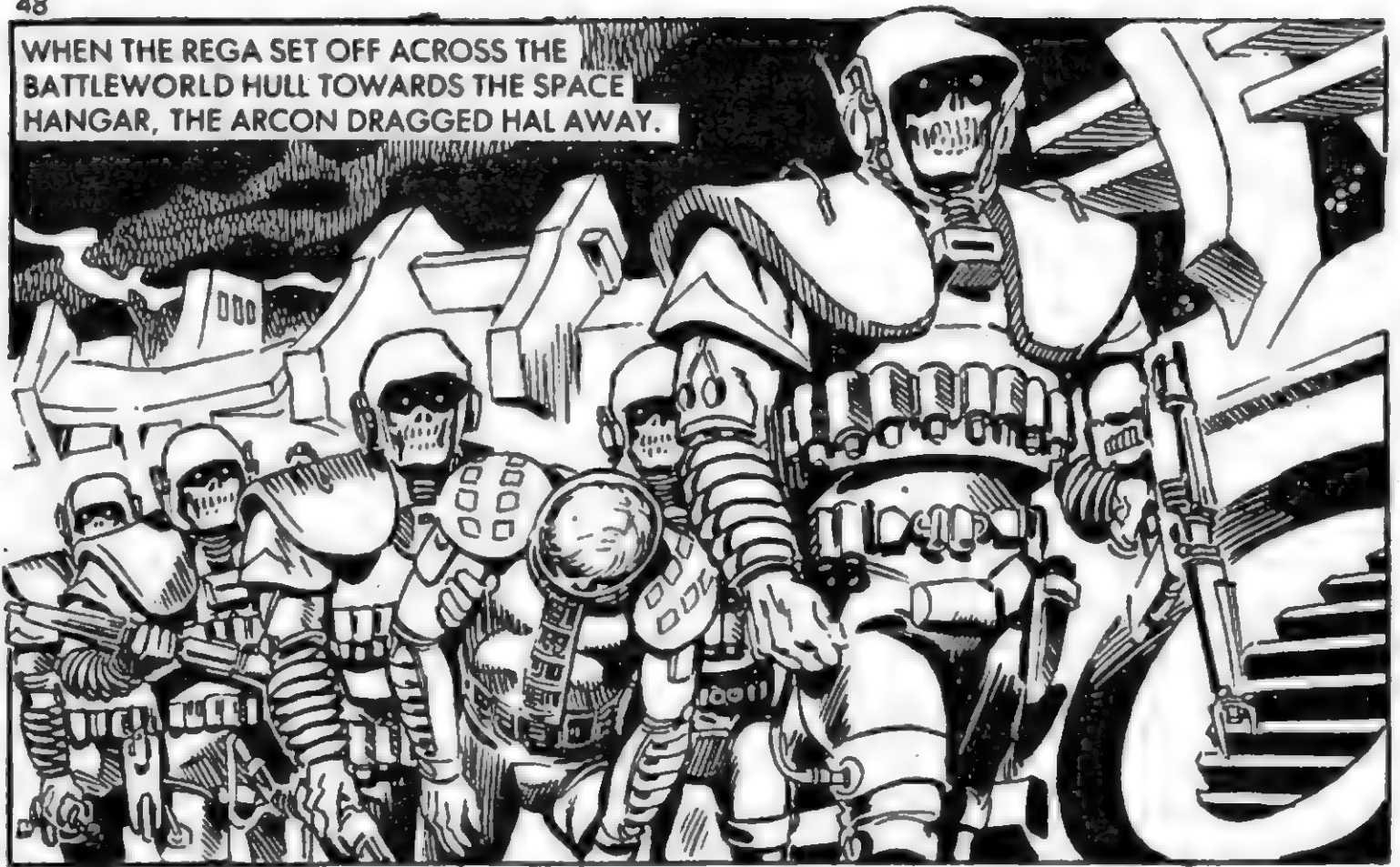


THE REGA HIDEOUT WAS BLASTED APART.





WHEN THE REGA SET OFF ACROSS THE BATTLEWORLD HULL TOWARDS THE SPACE HANGAR, THE ARCON DRAGGED HAL AWAY.



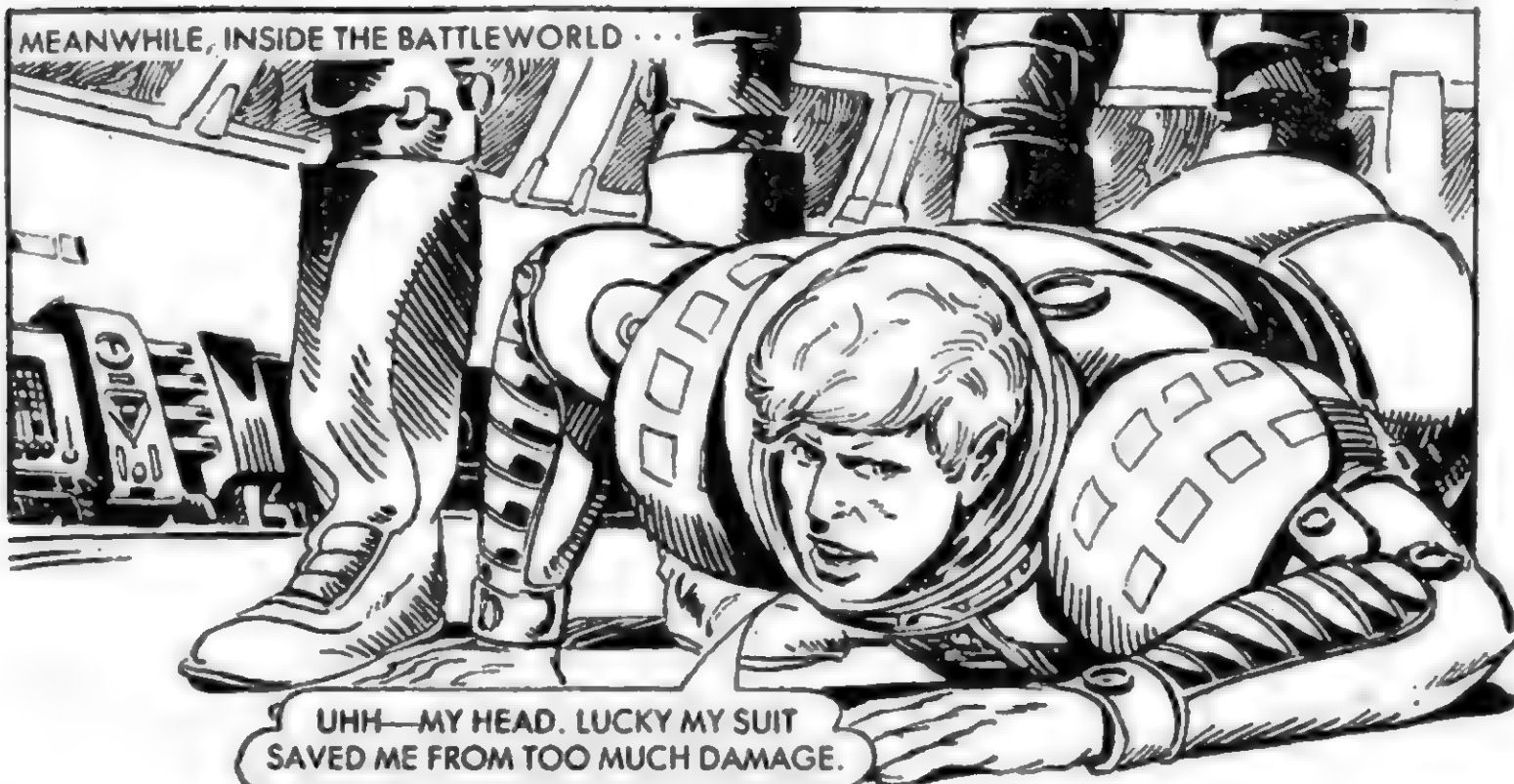
THE REGA WERE WORRIED—

LOOK—THE SPACE WARP . . . WE'RE GETTING NEARER AGAIN.



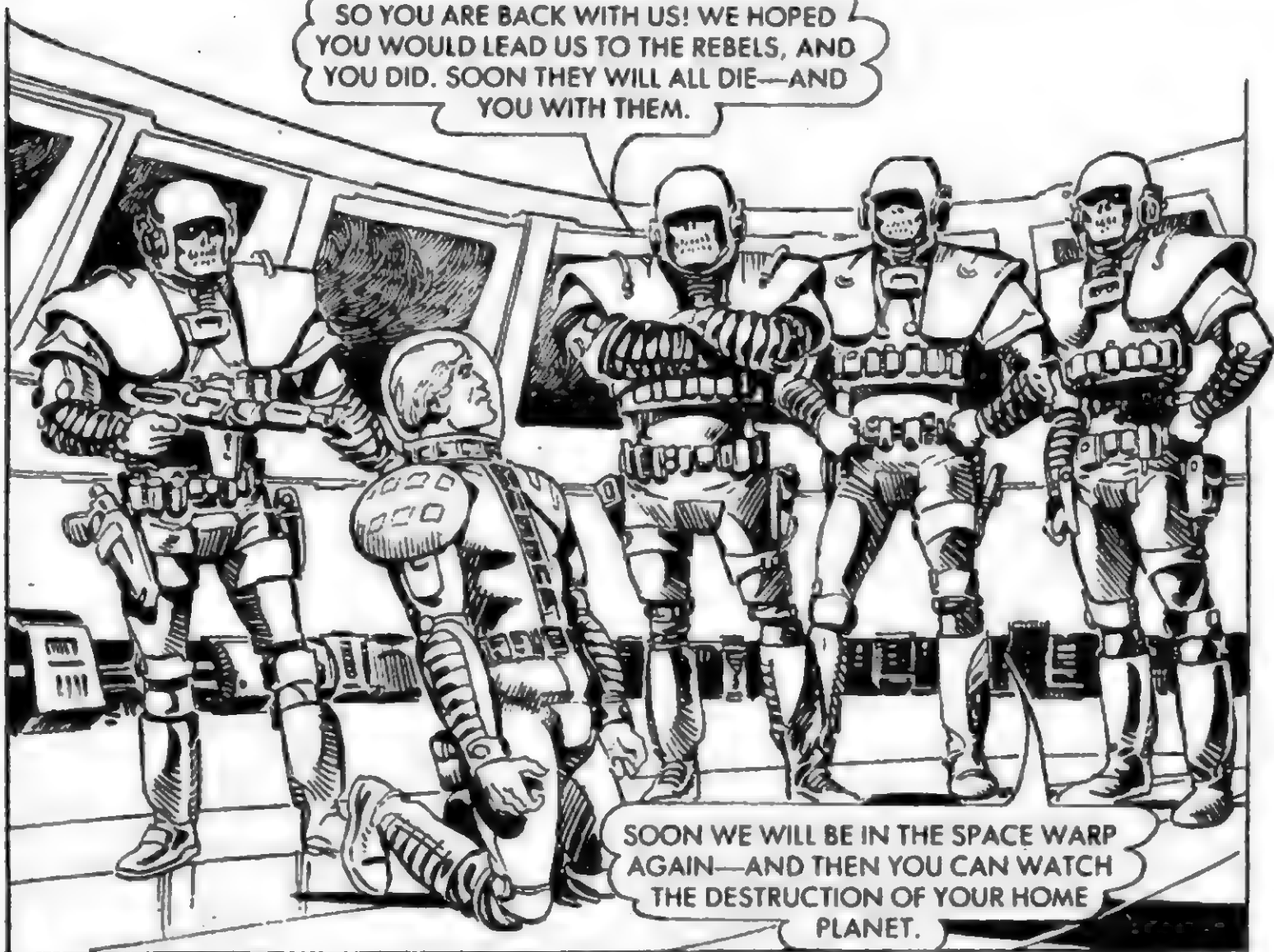
WE MUST FIND A SAFE PLACE NOW THAT OUR HIDEOUT IS NO MORE, OTHERWISE WHEN WE HIT THE WARP WE'LL BE SWEEPED OFF THE SURFACE.

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE BATTLEWORLD . . .



UHH—MY HEAD. LUCKY MY SUIT
SAVED ME FROM TOO MUCH DAMAGE.

SO YOU ARE BACK WITH US! WE HOPED
YOU WOULD LEAD US TO THE REBELS, AND
YOU DID. SOON THEY WILL ALL DIE—AND
YOU WITH THEM.



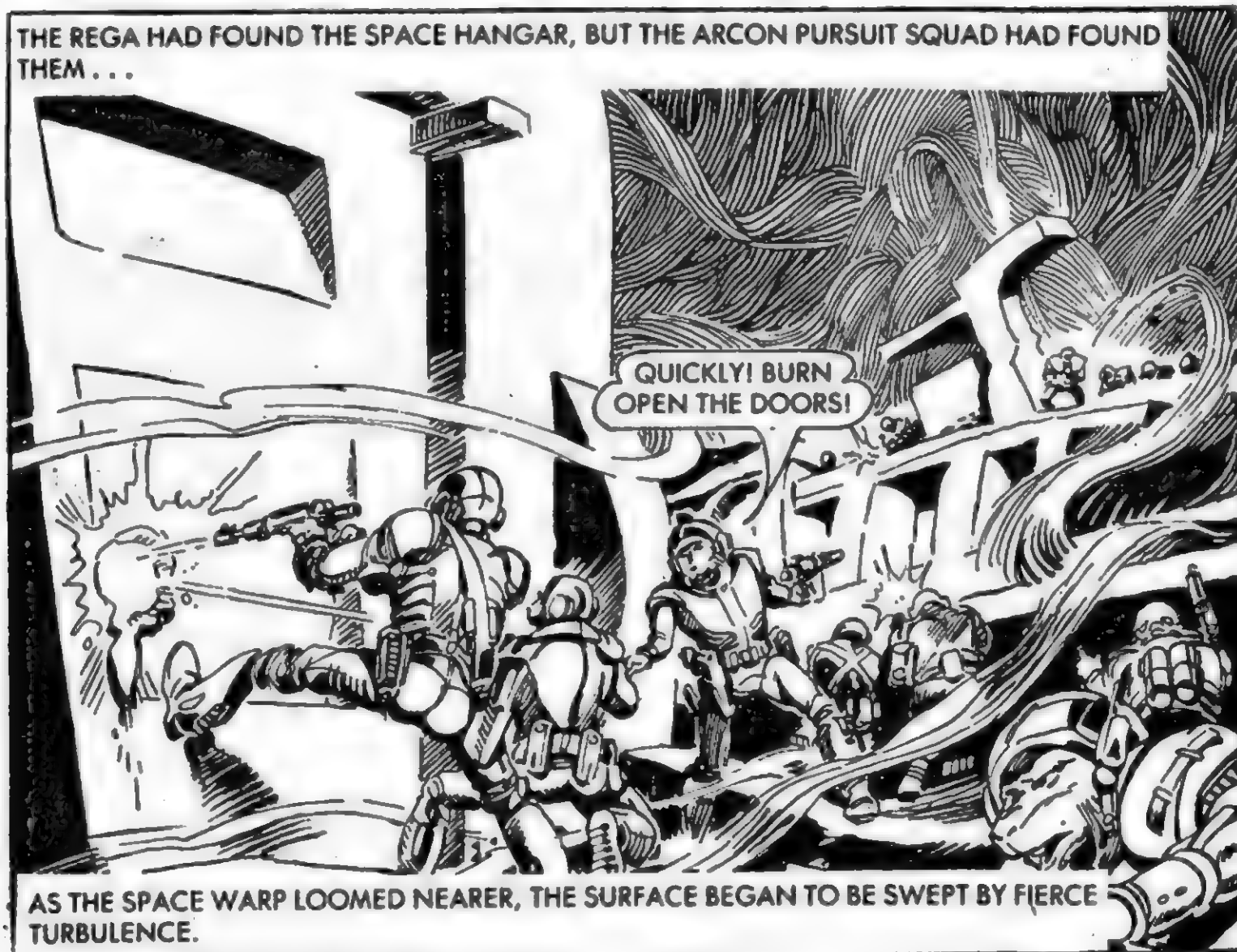
SOON WE WILL BE IN THE SPACE WARP
AGAIN—AND THEN YOU CAN WATCH
THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR HOME
PLANET.

LEM AND THE OTHERS—IF THEY'RE STILL
OUTSIDE, THE SPACE WARP WILL KILL
THEM!



THE REGA HAD FOUND THE SPACE HANGAR, BUT THE ARCON PURSUIT SQUAD HAD FOUND
THEM . . .

QUICKLY! BURN
OPEN THE DOORS!

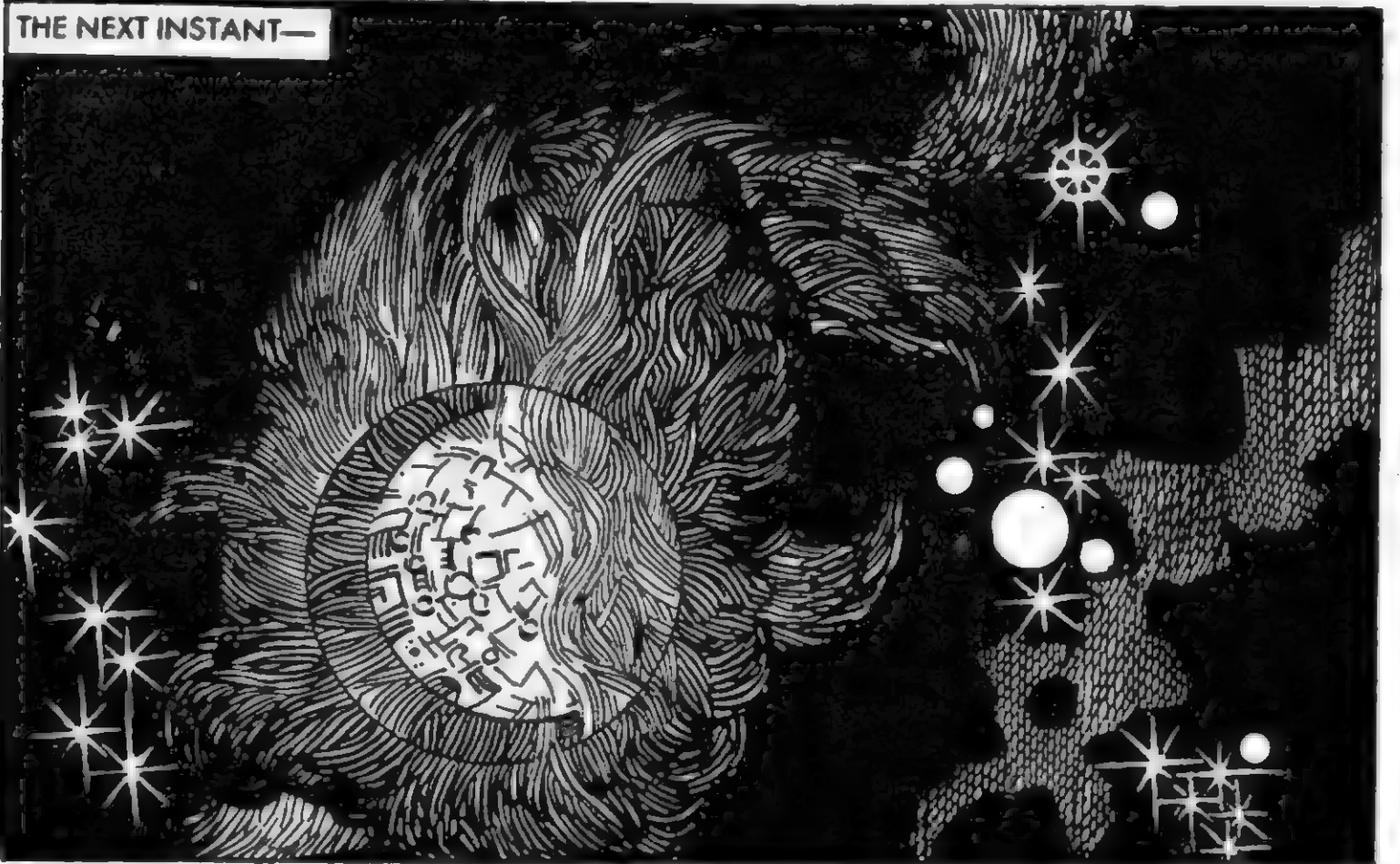


AS THE SPACE WARP LOOMED NEARER, THE SURFACE BEGAN TO BE SWEEPED BY FIERCE
TURBULENCE.

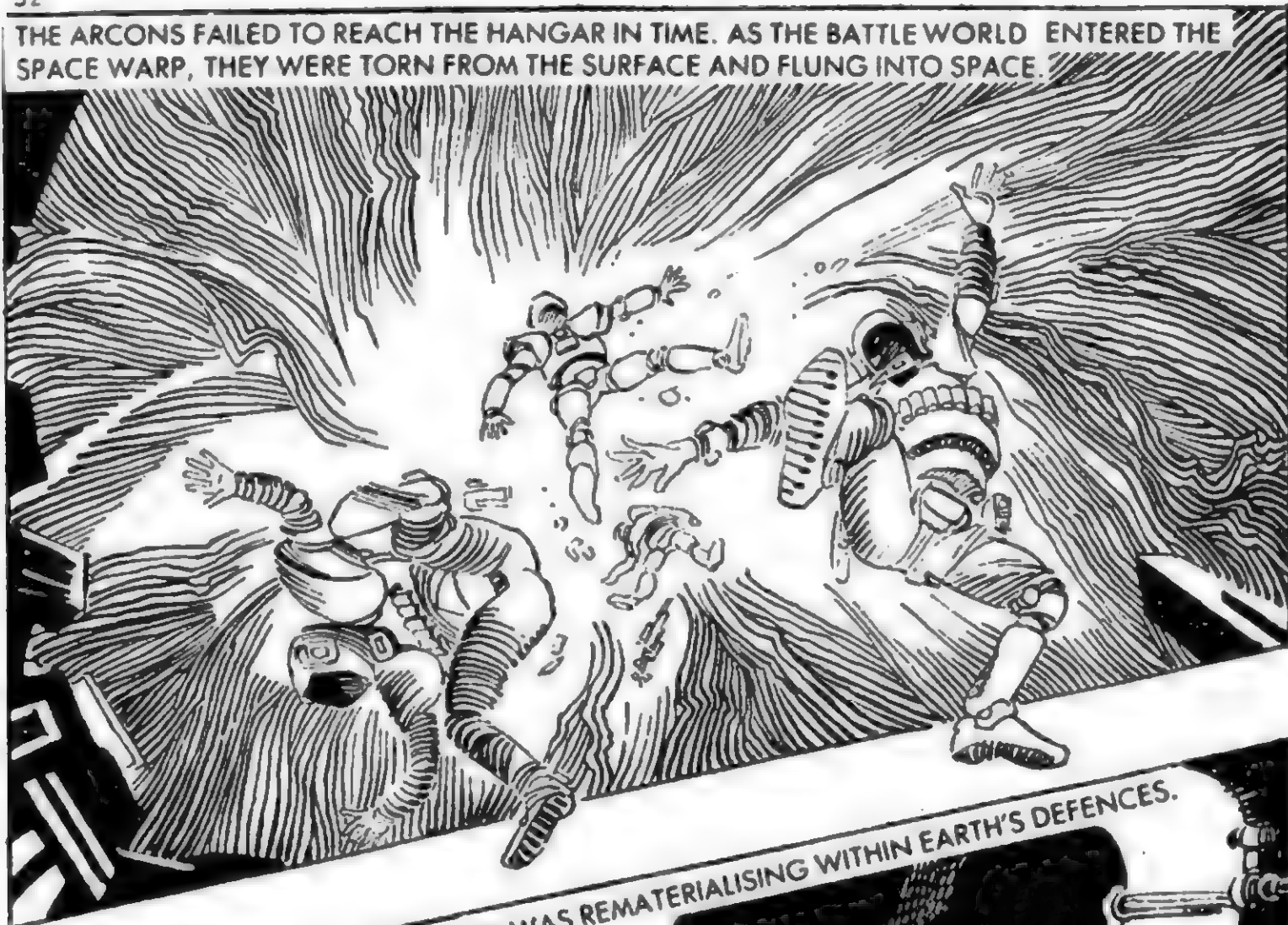
INSIDE, FAST—THE ARCONS
ARE NEARLY UPON US . . .



THE NEXT INSTANT—

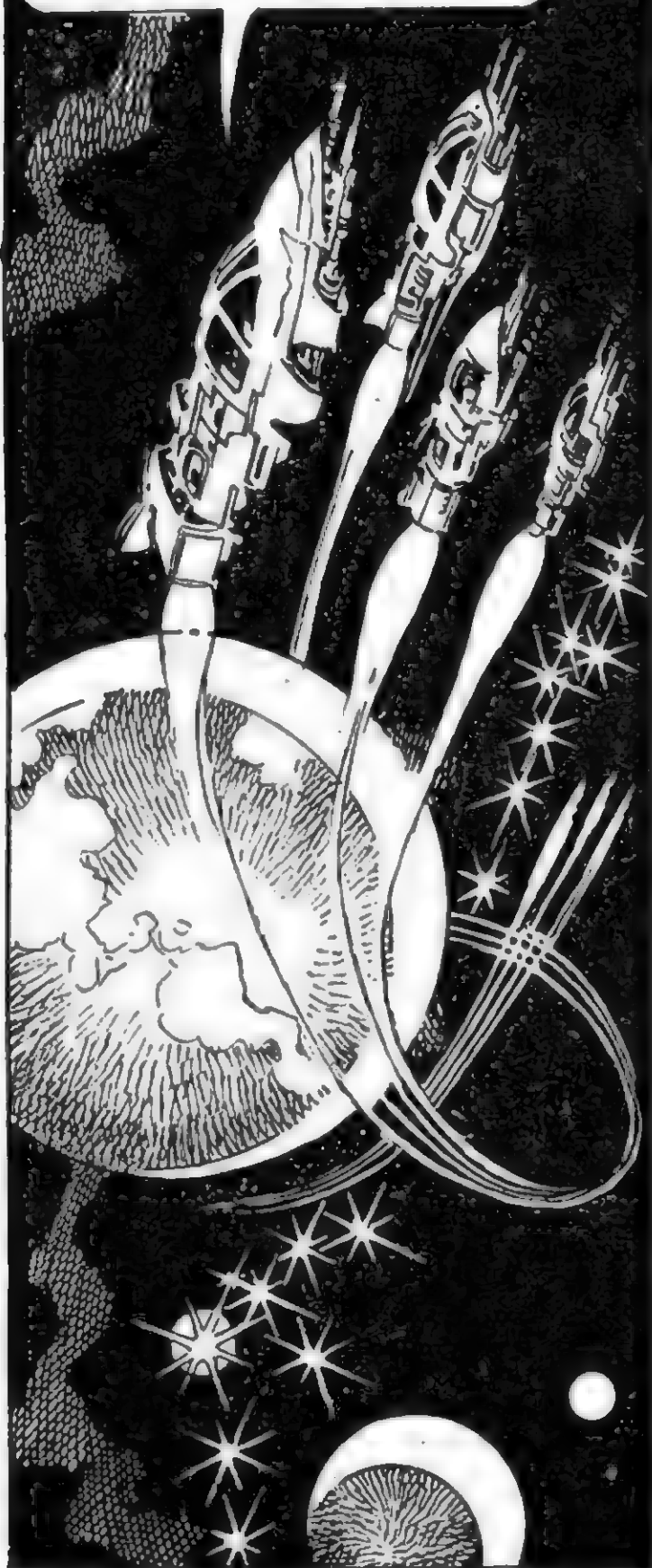


THE ARCONS FAILED TO REACH THE HANGAR IN TIME. AS THE BATTLE WORLD ENTERED THE SPACE WARP, THEY WERE TORN FROM THE SURFACE AND FLUNG INTO SPACE.



ONCE AGAIN, THE STARFIGHTER
SQUADRONS WERE ALERTED

ALIEN INTRUDER CLOSING ON
ATTACK TRAJECTORY . . . ALL
FLIGHTS CLOSE IN AND ENGAGE!



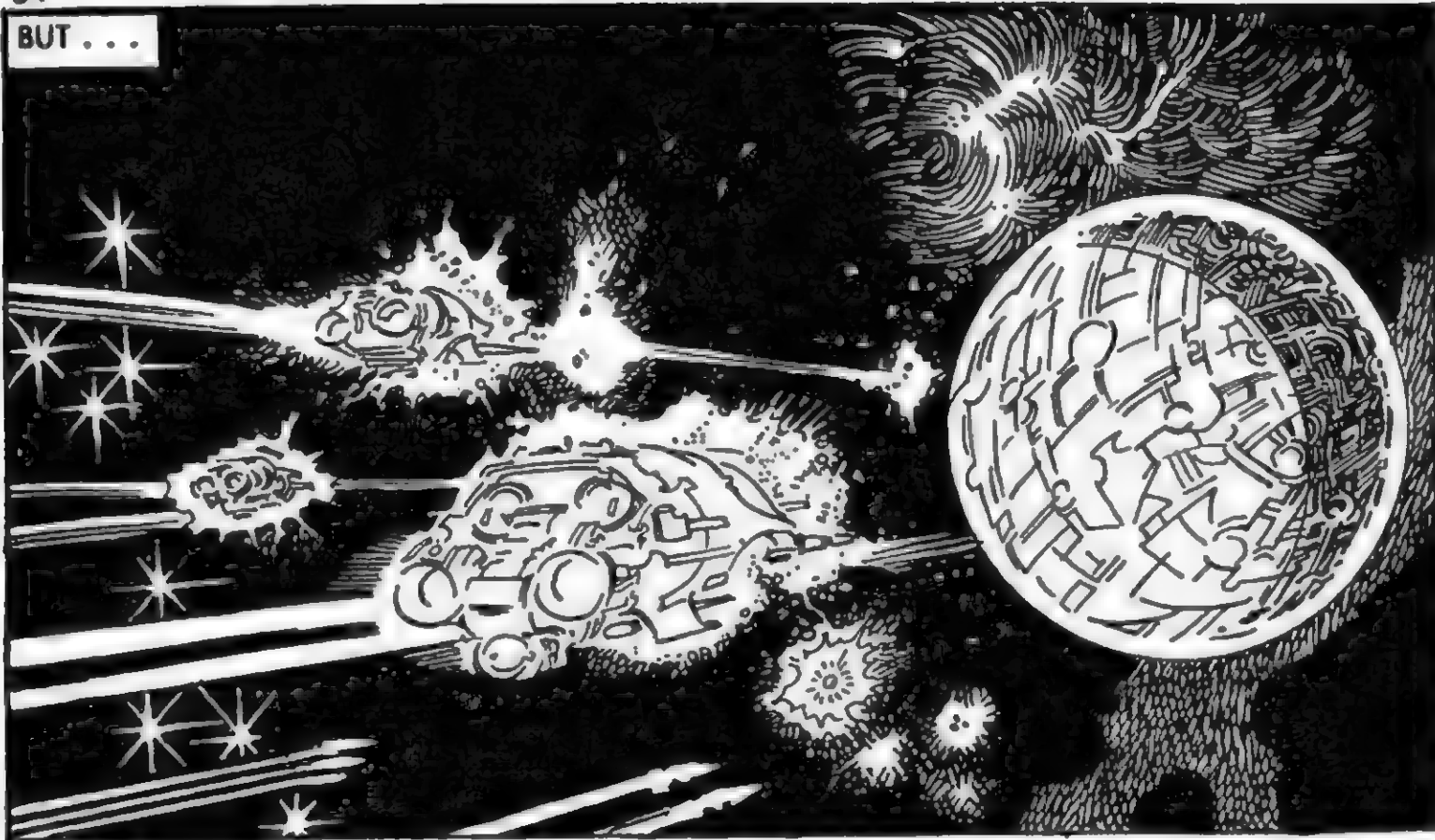
ON THE BATTLESTAR—



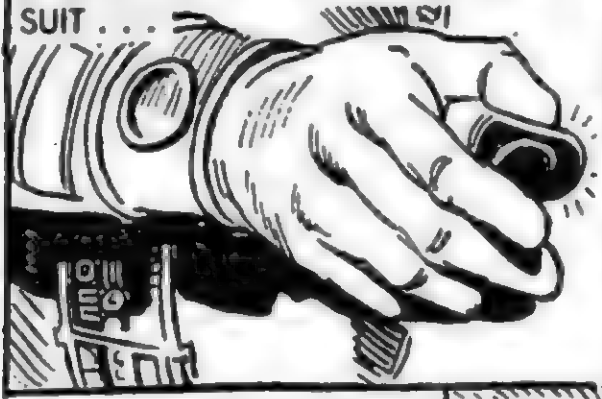
YOUR EARTH SHIPS FLY TO THEIR
DOOM. THEY CANNOT HOPE TO
MATCH OUR WEAPONS.

DON'T BE SO SURE.

BUT . . .



HAL STEALTHILY REMOVED AN
EMERGENCY FLARE FROM HIS SPACE
SUIT . . .



AHH — MY EYES!



. . . AND DROPPED IT.



IN THE CONFUSION, HAL GRABBED ONE OF THE GUNS.



KEEP BACK, ALL OF YOU — OR I KILL HIM.

DO AS HE SAYS — DON'T TRY ANYTHING.



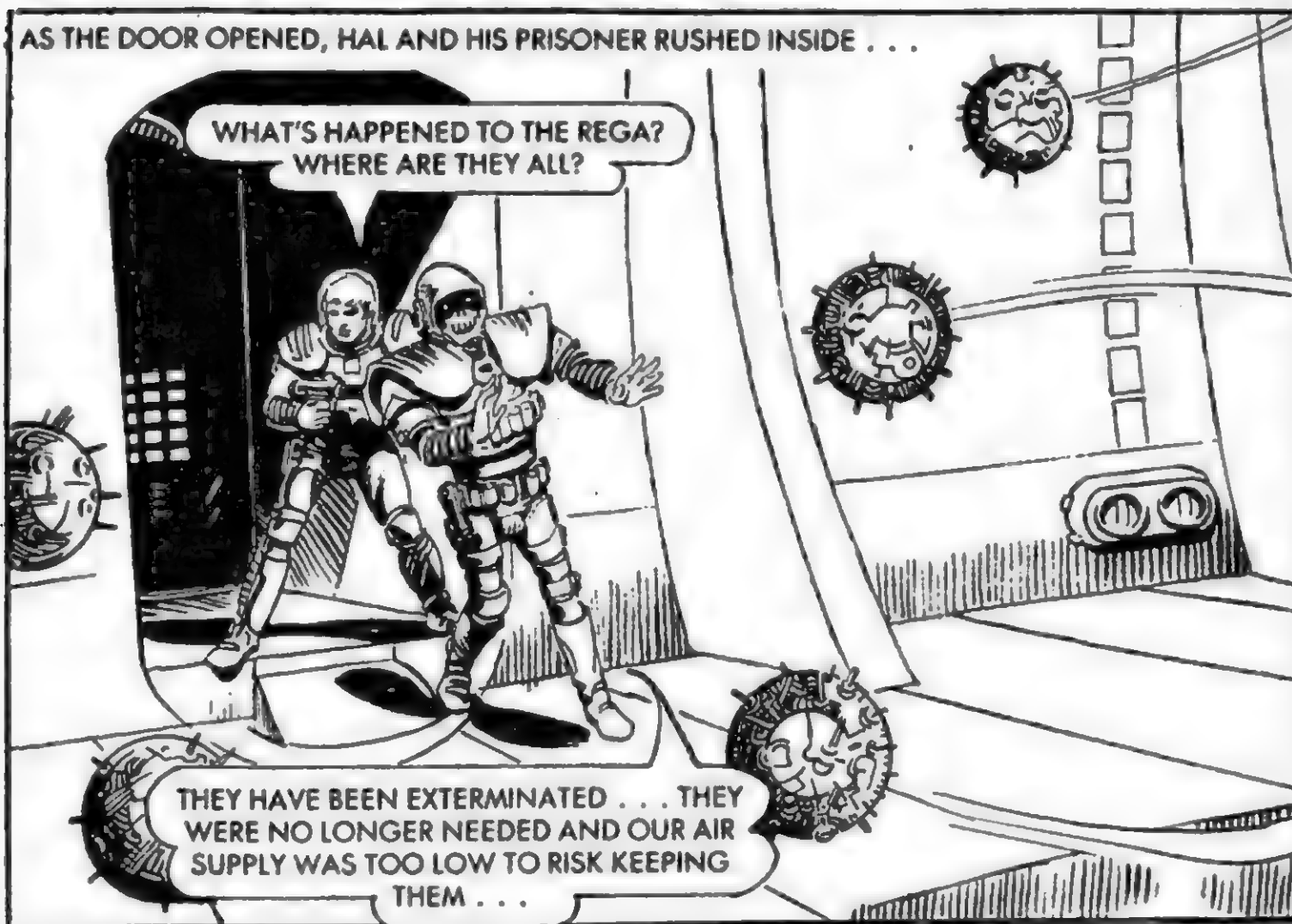
YOU CAN DO NOTHING, EARTHMAN. EVEN IF YOU KILL HIM, WE STILL DESTROY YOUR PLANET.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT. JUST KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.

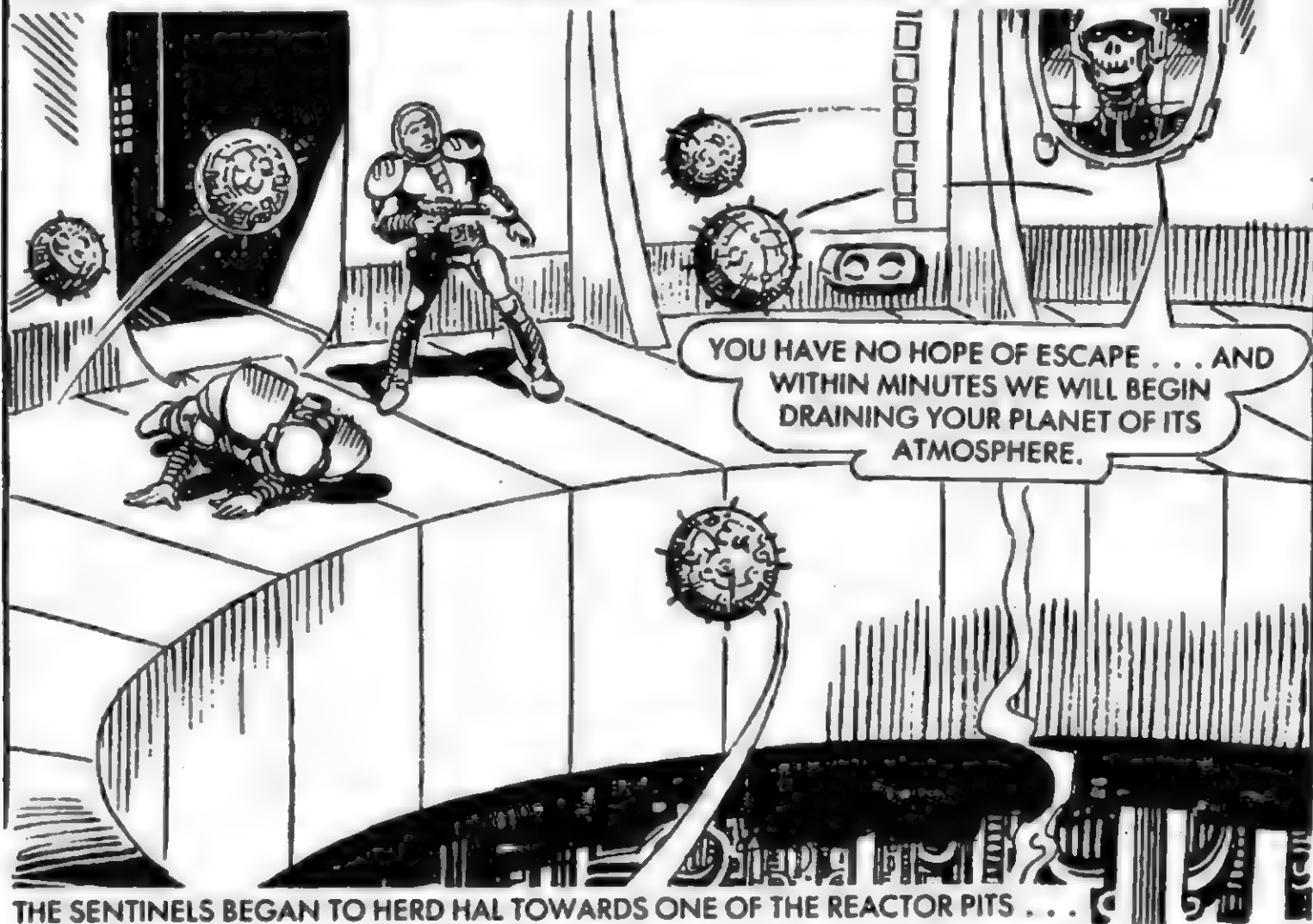


YOU WILL DIE SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY FOR THIS.

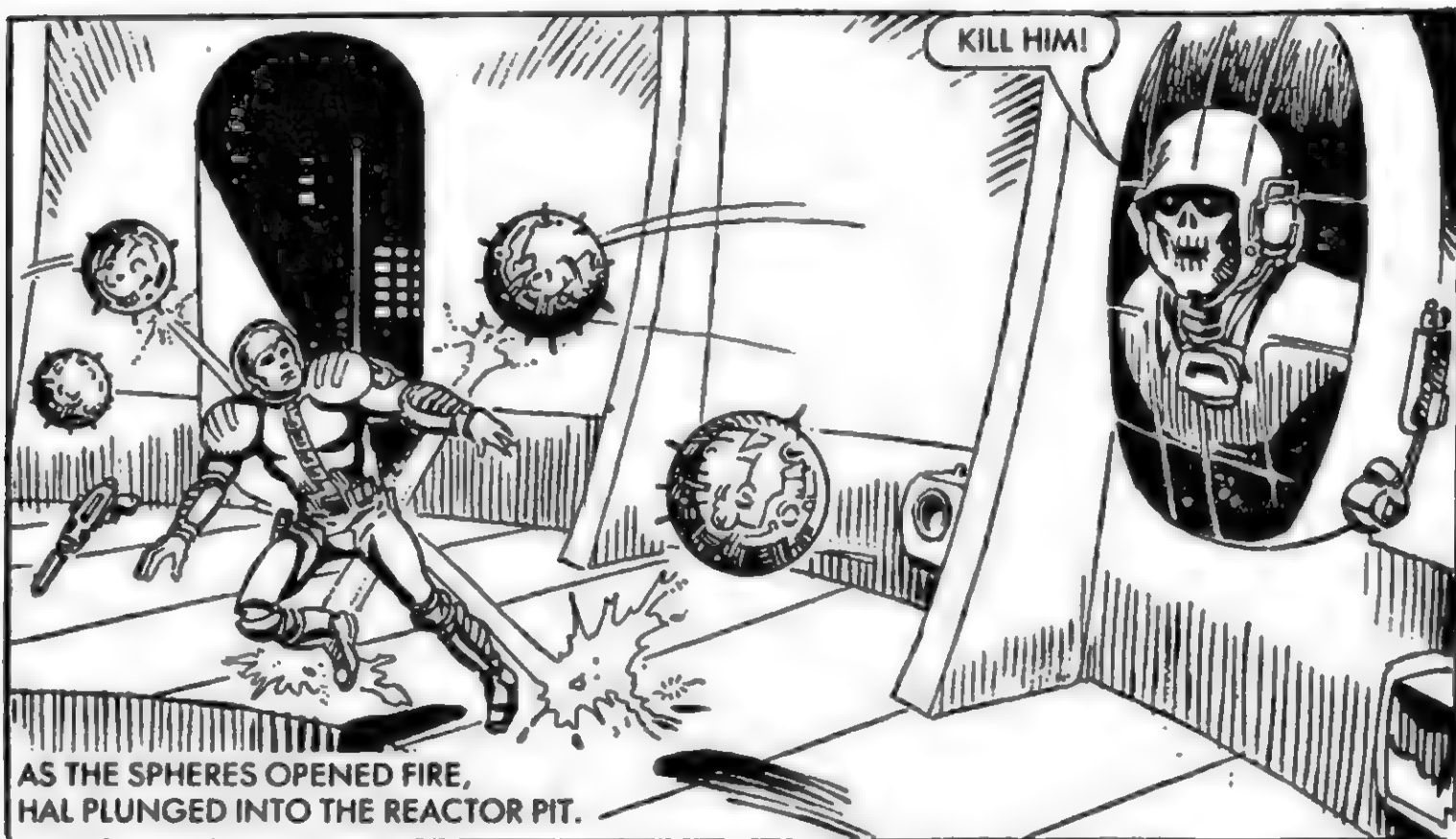
ANOTHER WORD FROM YOU AND YOU'LL HAVE A FEW MORE HOLES IN YOUR HEAD TO WORRY ABOUT.



THE CONTROLLER SUDDENLY SLUMPED, AFFECTED BY RADIATION FROM THE REACTOR . . .

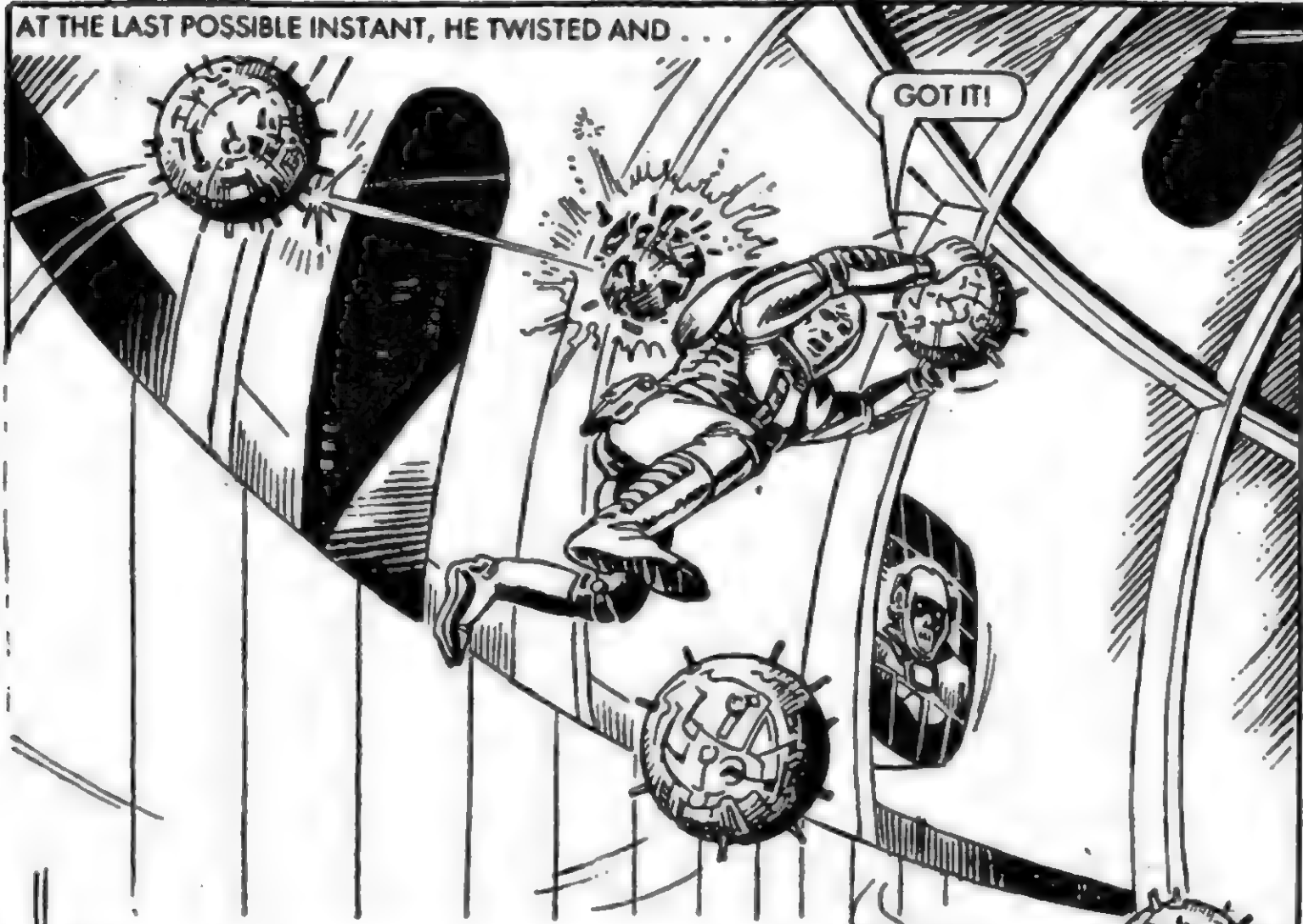


THE SENTINELS BEGAN TO HERD HAL TOWARDS ONE OF THE REACTOR PITS . . .

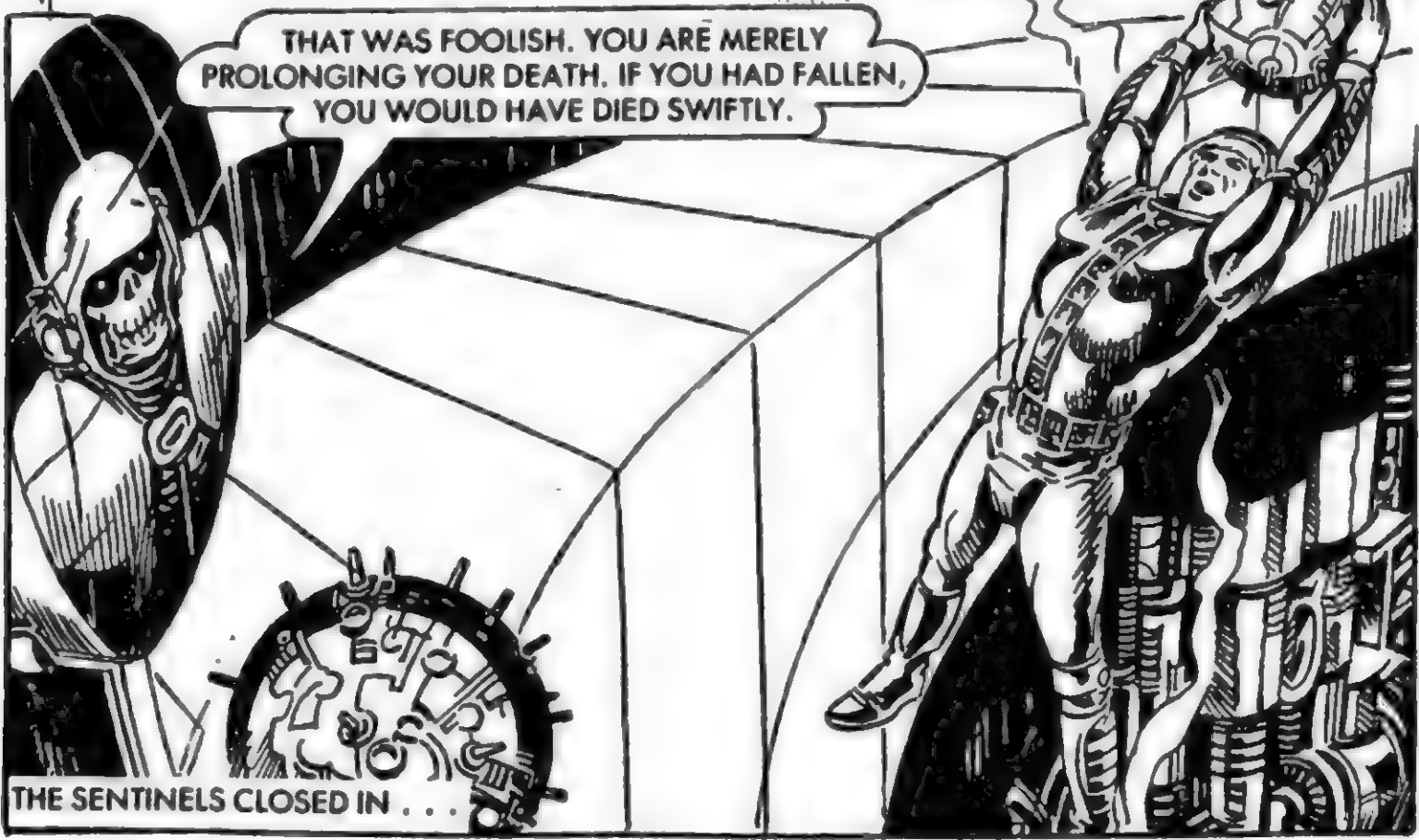


AS THE SPHERES OPENED FIRE,
HAL PLUNGED INTO THE REACTOR PIT.

AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT, HE TWISTED AND . . .



THAT WAS FOOLISH. YOU ARE MERELY PROLONGING YOUR DEATH. IF YOU HAD FALLEN, YOU WOULD HAVE DIED SWIFTLY.



THE SENTINELS CLOSED IN . . .

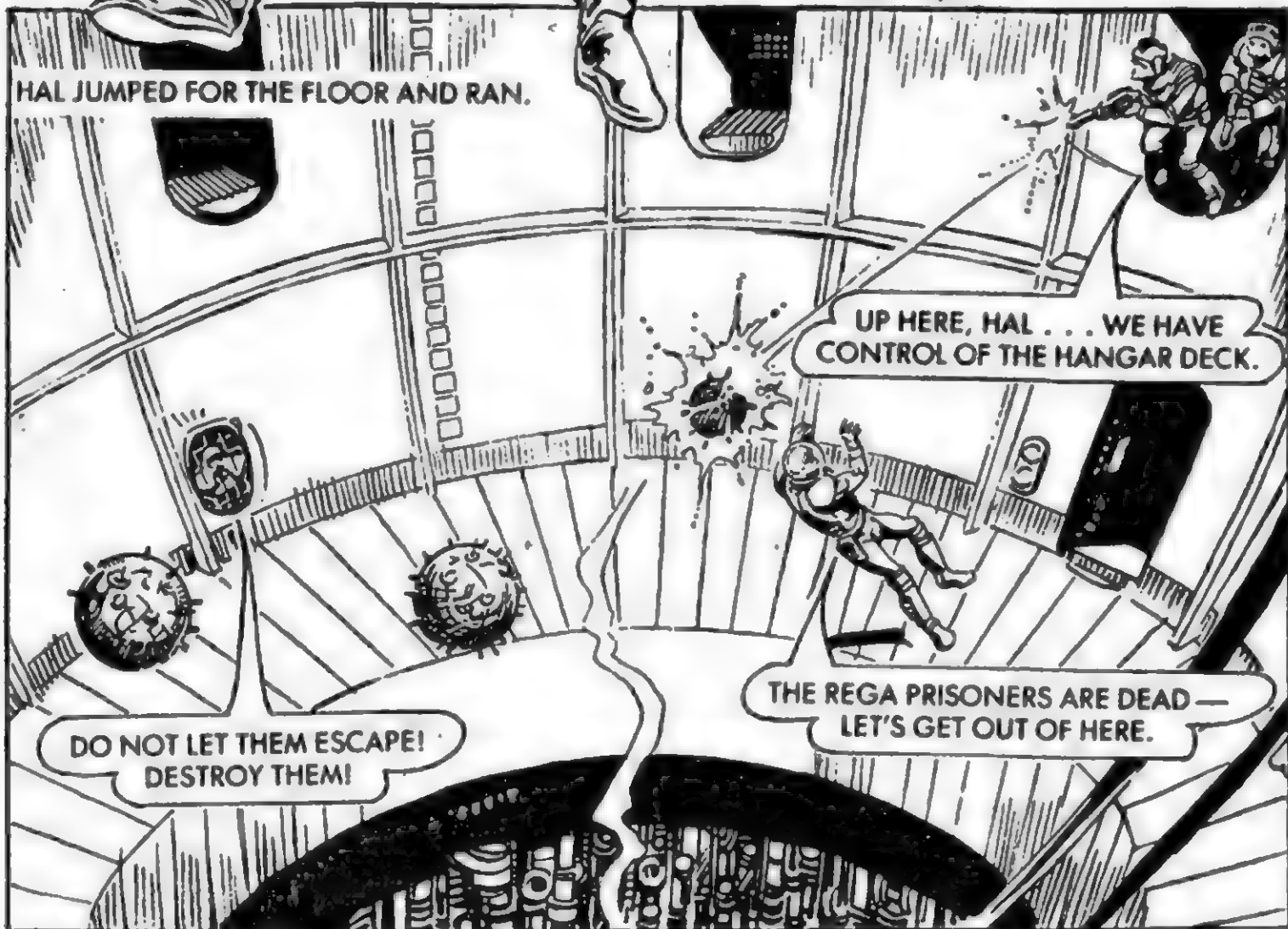
THEN—



AM I GLAD TO
SEE YOU TWO . . .

JUMP, HAL, BEFORE THEY
DEACTIVATE THE SPHERE.

HAL JUMPED FOR THE FLOOR AND RAN.



UP HERE, HAL . . . WE HAVE
CONTROL OF THE HANGAR DECK.

DO NOT LET THEM ESCAPE!
DESTROY THEM!

THE REGA PRISONERS ARE DEAD—
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

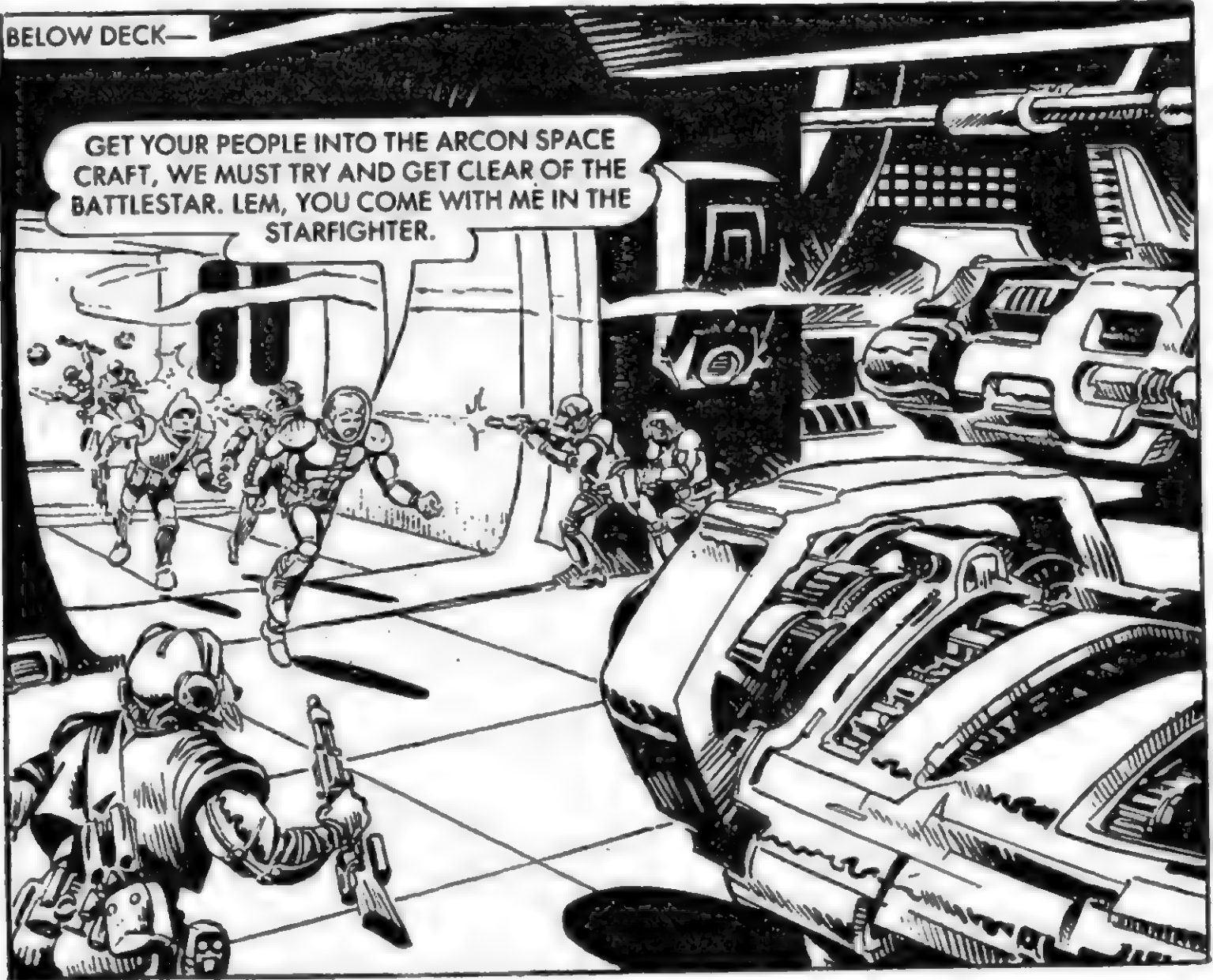
BACK ON THE BRIDGE—

THE REBELS CAN DO NOTHING. WE ARE WITHIN RANGE OF EARTH . . . PREPARE THE ATMOSPHERE SCOOPS.




BELOW DECK—

GET YOUR PEOPLE INTO THE ARCON SPACE CRAFT, WE MUST TRY AND GET CLEAR OF THE BATTLESTAR. LEM, YOU COME WITH ME IN THE STARFIGHTER.



EVEN AS HAL AND LEM SPED TO THEIR CRAFT EARTH'S DEFENCES WERE BEGINNING TO FAIL . . .




IT'S NO USE . . . THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH THEIR DEFENCE SHIELDS, OUR SHIPS ARE BEING WIPED OUT.



WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE, ON THE ALIEN'S SURFACE?

THEY'VE LAUNCHED A FIGHTER FLEET!

HAL AND THE REGA BLASTED CLEAR OF THE HANGAR . . .



THIS IS HAL STORM TO EARTH SQUADRON. HOLD YOUR FIRE — THESE SHIPS ARE ON OUR SIDE!

HAL! WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO YOU? WHO ARE THEY?



TIME FOR QUESTIONS LATER, FLIGHT
LEADER. LET'S DISPOSE OF THE ALIEN . . .

IT'S NO USE HAL . . . THE ALIEN'S
FORCE SHIELDS ARE TOO STRONG . . .



HAL — THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE
WHERE THE BATTLEWORLD'S SHIELD IS
BROKEN . . .

I KNOW — THE DEAD ZONE!
FOLLOW ME, FLIGHT LEADER.

HAL LED THE SQUADRON BACK FOR THE FINAL ATTACK.



THE EARTH FORCES
ARE WITHDRAWING.

THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE DEFEATED.
ACTIVATE THE ATMOSPHERIC SCOOPS!


AT THAT MOMENT, OVER THE DEAD ZONE . . .



AS THE MISSILES HIT, THE BATTLEWORLD ERUPTED . . .




SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AT EARTH'S DEFENCE H.Q. ON SATURN . . .



OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVISED A WAY TO DESTROY THE SPACE WARP, SO THE GAP IN OUR DEFENCES WILL BE CLOSED.

GOOD. BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LEM AND HIS PEOPLE, SIR?



THE REGA HAVE OFFERED TO SHARE THEIR ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE WITH US. IN RETURN, WE WILL PROVIDE A STARSHIP FOR THEM TO GO BACK TO THEIR OWN GALAXY BEFORE WE CLOSE THE SPACE WARP.

REGA WAS DESTROYED, BUT OUR PEOPLE ESCAPED AND WILL HAVE ESTABLISHED COLONIES.



**DON'T FORGET THIS
MONTH'S *OTHER***

STARBLAZER

24p

SPACE ROLE-PLAYING GAME IN PICTURES No. 158

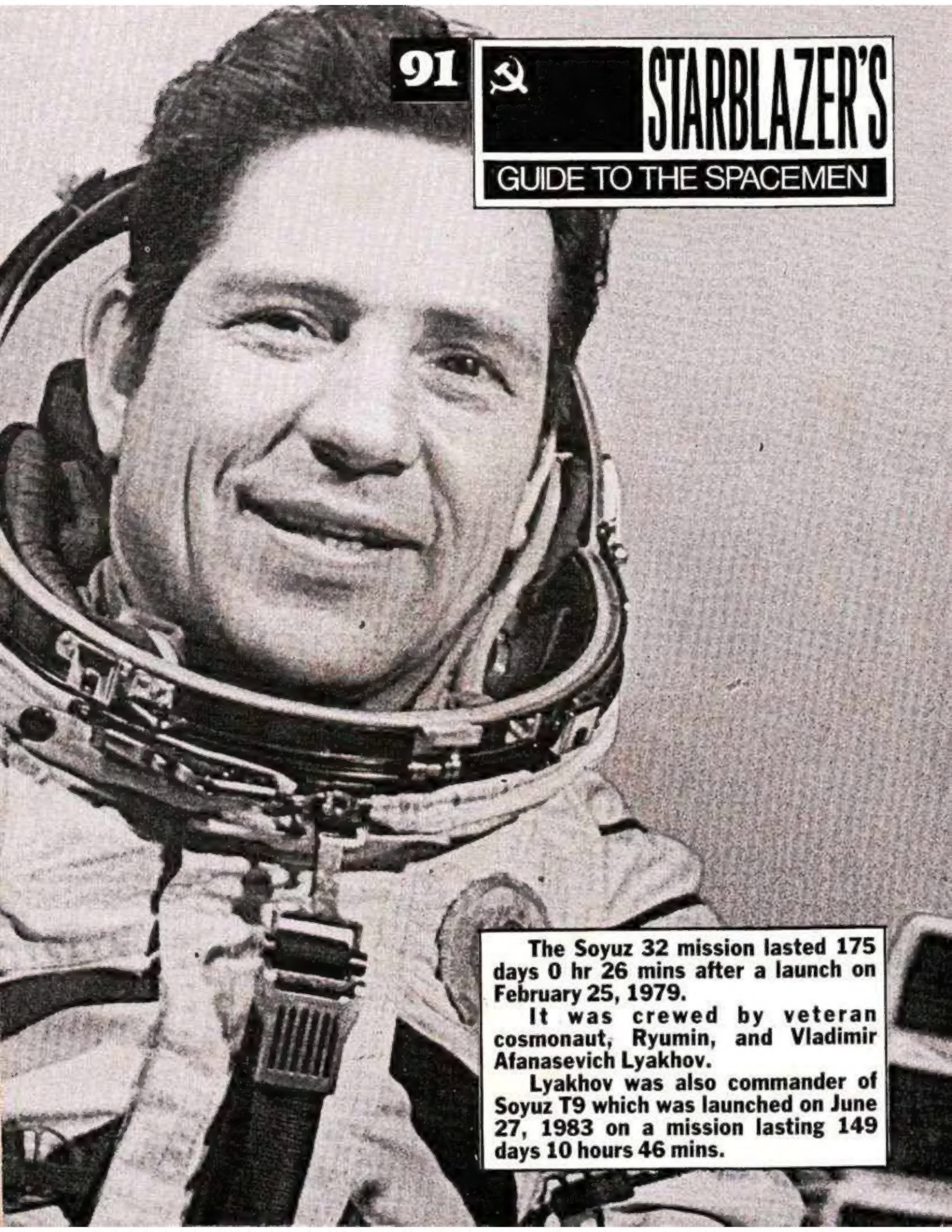
Robbed, plundered
and humiliated
by the brutal
Nordmen, a
peaceful tribe
found a
champion...



**AXEL
the
AVENGER**

...and he needs YOUR help to defeat them!

On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!*



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STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN

The Soyuz 32 mission lasted 175 days 0 hr 26 mins after a launch on February 25, 1979.

It was crewed by veteran cosmonaut, Ryumin, and Vladimir Afanasevich Lyakhov.

Lyakhov was also commander of Soyuz T9 which was launched on June 27, 1983 on a mission lasting 149 days 10 hours 46 mins.